



# THE TOGGLE IRON

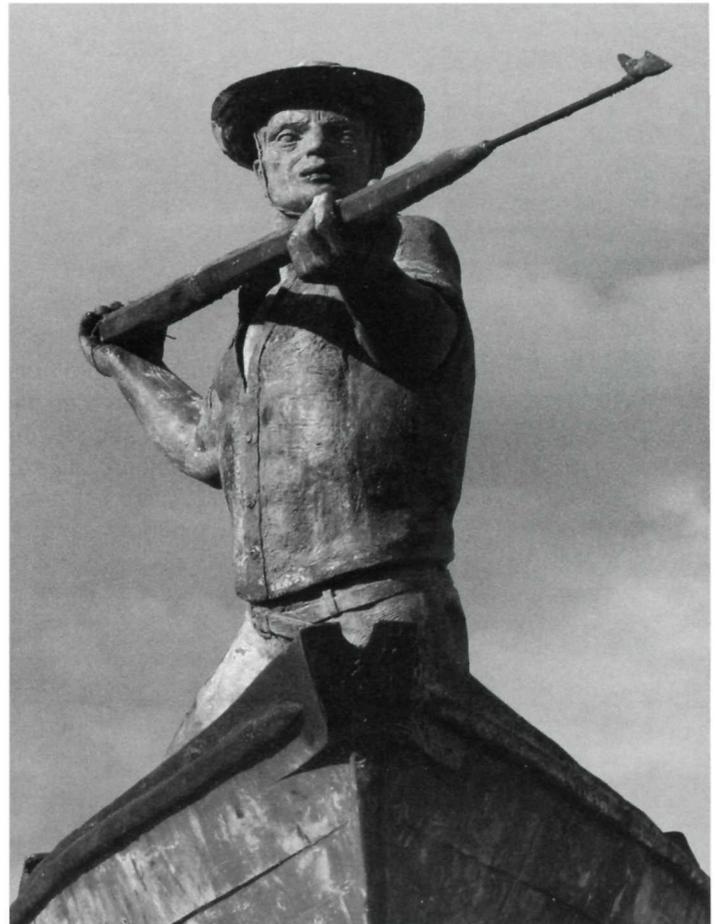
## Team completes successful trip to Azores

In November 2002, a team of New Bedford artists, historians and educators, under the project name Portraits of Two Whaling Ports: An International Project, traveled to the Autonomous Region of the Azores, Portugal on a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sponsored trip. The team, led by Deputy Superintendent Tom Ross and New Bedford Whaling Museum Director of Programs Lee Heald also included Karen Allen, Program Manager for the Whaling Museum; Memory Holloway, Professor of Art History and Portuguese Studies at UMass-Dartmouth; Kerrie Bellisario, Executive Director ArtWorks! at Dover Street; and John Robson, Photographer/Videographer. The team visited the Azorean Islands of Sao Miguel, Faial and Pico as a cultural exchange to strengthen ties between cultural institutions in the Azores and New Bedford as well as to undertake research on our shared whaling heritage and cultural traditions.

The project brought together people from museums and educational institutions in the Azores and New Bedford in order to document the stories of people who went whaling from the Azores and connect these stories to the stories of the people of Southeastern, Massachusetts. The team also met with traditional craft people such as ceramicists, scrimshanders, weavers, sculptors and others who carry on the traditional maritime folk craft traditions of the Islands. The photographs on this and the following pages, taken by John Robson, reflect a small selection of the wonderful people and beautiful places the team visited in the Azores Islands.

Over the next several months, the team's research will be used in the

(Continued on Page 2)



Whaleman statue on the island of Pico. Photo by John Robson

## From the Superintendent

The global reach of New Bedford's whaling industry is well represented in this edition of The Toggle Iron. Ongoing partnerships with the Inupiat Heritage Center in Barrow and cultural and civic leaders in the Azores have yielded exhibits, programs, events, and the greater possibility of linking distant places through a shared whaling and maritime heritage. Much like Ishmael, Herman Melville's whaleman protagonist in Moby-Dick, we have an opportunity here in New Bedford to "sail about and see the watery part of the world." We look forward to sharing news of our national and international partnerships in this and future editions.

John Piltzecker

## NPS Delegation Travels to Barrow

A delegation of NPS staff traveled to Barrow in February for Kivgiq - The Messenger Feast. Kivgiq is a three-day, mid-winter festival held in Barrow that features dancing, trading, story-telling, gift-giving, Eskimo games, a traditional foot race and feasting. The event drew dance groups from across the North Slope, from Russia, Canada and Greenland. Kivgiq, which has been held in contemporary times approximately every three or four years, was sponsored by the North Slope Borough with the support of funding through the Department of Education's Education Through Cultural and Historical Organizations (ECHO) Act. ECHO has provided funds for cultural exchange

(Continued on Page 2)

## Travel to Barrow

Story continued from page 1

between a number of institutions in Alaska, Hawaii and Massachusetts.

Budget and travel restraints prevented New Bedford staff from traveling to Barrow, but the NPS was well represented by Linda Cook, Affiliated Areas Superintendent, and Anna Jacobs Bateman, Historian, both from the Alaska Regional Office. In Barrow, they met up with ECHO grant recipients from the Peabody Essex Museum, the Alaska Native Heritage Center, and the Inupiat Heritage



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park was established in 1996 to help preserve and interpret America's nineteenth century whaling history. The park encompasses a 13-block National Historic Landmark District and addresses the history of the whaling industry and its influence on the economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.

**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park**  
33 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
www.nps.gov/nebe  
nebe\_superintendent@nps.gov

**Park Visitor Center**  
(508) 996-4095

**Park Headquarters**  
(508) 996-4469  
Fax (508) 994-8922

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



**Temple Toggle-Iron:** The most successful harpoon ever made. Invented by Lewis Temple, an African American whalecraft-maker of New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1848, and at first called "porpoise iron" and "Temple's gig." It became the universal whale iron, and has never been improved upon. (From Clifford W. Ashley's, *The Yankee Whaler*)

Center, including Ronald Brower, Sr. the Center's Director and partner in programming at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

Traditionally, Kivgiq was sponsored by the Umialgich-the leaders of the communities who are also usually the whaling captains. Every few years, after gathering enough food and making enough gifts to present to their guests, they sent out two aqpatit, their runners (sometimes referred to as the messengers), to outlying communities to invite the other Umialgich to attend Kivgiq. The contemporary celebrations are held at the local school gymnasium and other public buildings in Barrow and bring generations of people together in celebration.

Yes-the temperature dipped well below zero while the group was in Barrow, but a warm welcome from friends at the Inupiat Heritage Center, the opportunity to make plans for future collaborative projects, a full roster of and events and activities, and some very warm parkas made it the best time to be there. Look for more news on our partnership with the Inupiat Heritage Center in future Toggle Iron editions.



The Inupiat Heritage Center.

## Successful Azores Trip

Continued from Page 1

development of numerous products. The major products will include a traveling exhibition of the maritime folk craft traditions of these islands that will incorporate the oral histories, maritime folk craft research and photographic documentation gathered on the trip. A second major product from the trip will be an audio visual presentation of the oral interviews undertaken with former Azorean

whale factory workers and whalers on the three islands.

The exhibition and video are slated to premiere in early June 2003 through a collaborative exhibition between the New Bedford Whaling Museum and ArtWorks! at Dover Street. The exhibition will then travel to cultural institutions in the Azores. Other products such as website development, lectures, publications and development of educational curriculum materials will also be generated by the project.

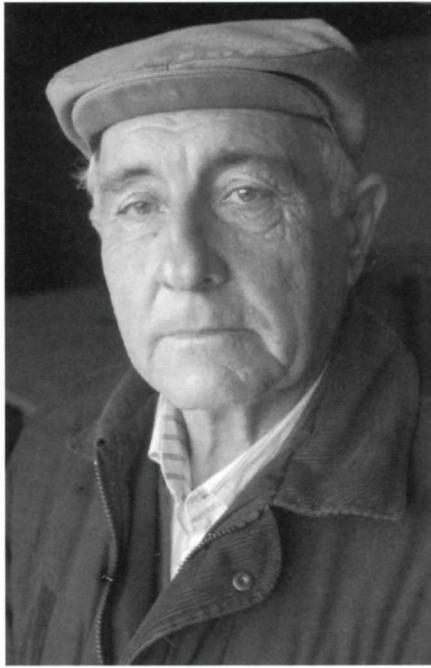


New Bedford Team and Friends on Pico, Azores.

(left to right): Fatima Roderigues, Whalers' Museum of Pico, Lee Heald, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Karen Allen, New Bedford Whaling Museum, Kerrie Bellisario, ArtWorks! at Dover Street, Memory Holloway, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, Thelma Silva, Whalers' Museum of Pico, and Tom Ross, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.

Scenes  
From  
the  
Azores

*by John Robson*



# Volunteer Spotlight



**Name:** Mary Riddle

**Age:** (optional): 74

**City/Town you live in:** South Dartmouth

**Family:** Widow—3 children and 5 grandchildren

**Occupation:** Retired Legal Secretary

**Special Interests/Hobbies:** Travelling, reading, gardening

**How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?**

Less than a year

**Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** To become active in the community and to learn the history of New Bedford, which is so much more interesting than I previously anticipated.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center?**

Meeting people from all over and informing them of the many historical sites within the National Park. The other volunteers are friendly, pleasant, and informative when I ask for past history, directions, etc. I am very enthusiastic about volunteering in New Bedford.

**What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life?**

My husband and I travelled the US, Canada, and parts of Europe, but most interesting to me was the different cultures in our own country. We saw a working cotton gin in the south, visited cajun country, Indian reservations, National Parks, and other historic sites. I find travelling in the US very interesting.

**What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try?** I have visited my

mother's homeland (England) several times but never my father's (Italy) so I would like to visit Sicily.



**Name:** Susan Struck

**Age:** (optional) 55

**City/Town you live in:** Marion

**Family:** Husband, daughter, and son.

**Occupation:** Retired—office administrative assistant

**Special Interests/Hobbies:** Gardening, cooking, sports (biking, rollerblading, kayaking) I am very involved with committee work in my church.

**How long have you been a volunteer at the visitor center?**

3 months

**Why did you decide to become a volunteer?** I have always had an interest in the National Park Service. Being involved with the NPS in New Bedford gives me the opportunity to meet some very interesting people, to work in the New Bedford historic district, and learn the history of this great city.

**What do you enjoy most about volunteering at the visitor center?**

I enjoy the people I work with, being in this unique historic district, and greeting and talking with the many interesting folks who come through the center. It gives a perspective on how our government is working to preserve our national history.

**What is the most interesting thing that you've done in your life?** I

was an AFS student in Denmark and my own family hosted a student from Greece and one from Norway. My husband and I have done a lot of hiking in the mountains surrounding the city of Tucson--the lack of noise at those heights is incredible!

**What is the one thing that you'd like to do or try?** My husband and

I would like to do more travelling in this country and Canada and participate in a biking/hiking tour. The possibility of operating a Bed and Breakfast is also something we might like to try.

**“On the wharves of New Bedford I received my first light. I saw there industry without bustle, labor without noise, toil--ho nest, earnest and exhaustive-- without the whip. There was no loud singing or hallooing at the wharves of southern ports when ships were loading or unloading; no loud cursing or quarreling; everything went on as smoothly as well-oi led machinery.”**

**-- Frederick Douglass, *Life and Times of Frederick Douglass***

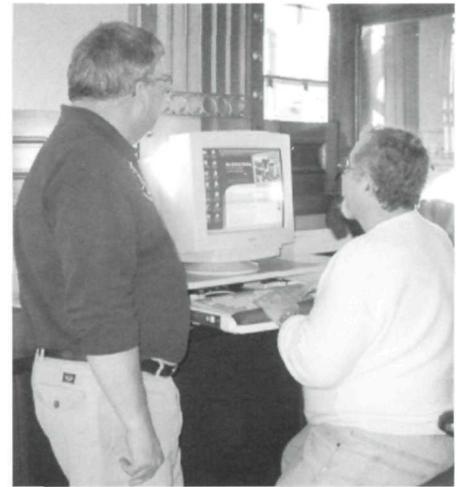
# Information is Now Just a Mouse Click Away

A bit of the 21st century has found its way into the park's 150 year old visitor center by way of an internet connected desktop computer. Located at the information desk, the computer is connected to the National Park Service's NPSnet and was installed to give volunteers access to the internet as a tool to assist park visitors. From directions to nearby attractions to entrance fees at distant parks, the internet can be used to provide visitors with a variety of information. With a click of the mouse, volunteers can instantly produce printed directions, schedules and events calendars upon request. Links to local partners' websites, nearby national parks, weather conditions, traffic updates and more can help visitors plan their day's activities and enhance their visit to the park.

Networking the computers at the Visitor Center was made possible by an upgrade to the park's local area network that was completed in October 2002. The upgrade included installation of two new data circuits: one connecting the computers at the visitor center to the park's LAN located in the U.S. Custom House across the street; the other providing high speed internet connectivity for all park offices. Funding was provided by the National Park Service's Equipment Replacement Program which provides parks with funds for the purchase of replacement computers, vehicles and other eligible items.

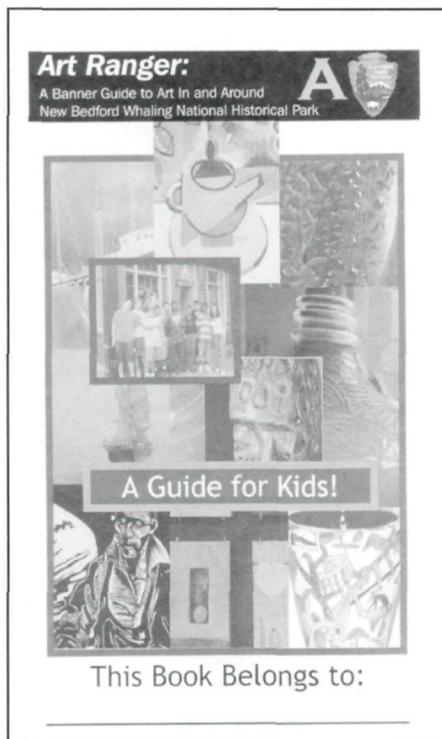
Along with the park's dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer staff, the

availability of a computer and on-site internet connectivity offers yet another opportunity to provide our visitors with quality service.



---

## Become an Art Ranger!



teach everybody about art in and around the park. The activities inside were designed for kids of all ages and adults as well.

The Art Ranger Program is a fun way to see and make art in the park. To earn your Art Ranger badge, bring your booklet to Custom House Square and view all nine of the banners that are on display. Read along with the descriptions of the banners in the booklet and learn about some of the artists working in and around the Park. Then participate in the interactive activities in the Act Now! sections of the booklet. Here, you will be able to explore more art related sites in the park and even create some art of your own at the Act Now! Activity Station at ArtWorks!, a nonprofit gallery and artist workspace in the park located just around the corner from the Visitor Center. When you have done all of the Act Now! activities, take your booklet to the Visitor Center or ArtWorks! to receive your Art Ranger badge.

For more information on the Art Ranger Program or the Teen Arts Coalition, contact park ranger Frank Barrows at (508) 996- 4095 extension 13.

In the last edition of the Toggle Iron we announced the unveiling of art banners at Custom House Square that were created by the Teen Arts Coalition. Now you can become an Art Ranger by picking up a free Art Ranger booklet at the Visitor Center or ArtWorks! at Dover Street. The booklet was designed to

## Park Recognizes Volunteers at End of Year Event

Park staff and volunteers ended 2002 with a celebration recognizing the hard work and contributions of the park's volunteer group as well as the successes of the past year. Over 100 people attended a recognition event held in early December where good company and hardy laughter was the main theme. Jennifer Gonsalves, the park's Volunteer Coordinator, talks about the importance of this annual occasion: "This volunteer appreciation event is a great way for us to reflect on the past year while showing our gratitude to the more than 70 volunteers that give so much to the park. They are the crux of our operation and this is our way of honoring that commitment." Bob Dutra, ten year volunteer at the visitor center was specially recognized as was the hard work and dedication of the 13 member Volunteer Leadership Council. Park Superintendent John Piltzecker closed the evening by expressing his appreciation to the volunteers and providing a glimpse into the exciting year ahead.

# Holiday Happenings 2002

Touted as a “gift to New Bedford’s children,” Holiday Shops, held every year the first weekend of December under the sponsorship of the Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE), was, once again, a rousing success. The snow covered streets of the national historical park came alive as local school children sang and danced to holiday standards, “living statues” graced the street corners and jugglers and magicians entertained the crowds. Historic buildings and local institutions served as the setting for local vendors to display and sell their wares to holiday shoppers.



Special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrived by helicopter each day to the delight of everyone in attendance. The smell of hot chocolate, roasted chestnuts and fresh cut greens wafted through the air while the Azorean Boathouse was transformed into an always busy children’s craft area. Some of the sights of the festive celebration are pictured on this page.




  
 A program of the National Park Foundation.

The production of The Toggle Iron was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Kodak, Proud Partner of America’s National Parks.

# Seventh Annual Moby-Dick Marathon Sees Record Attendance

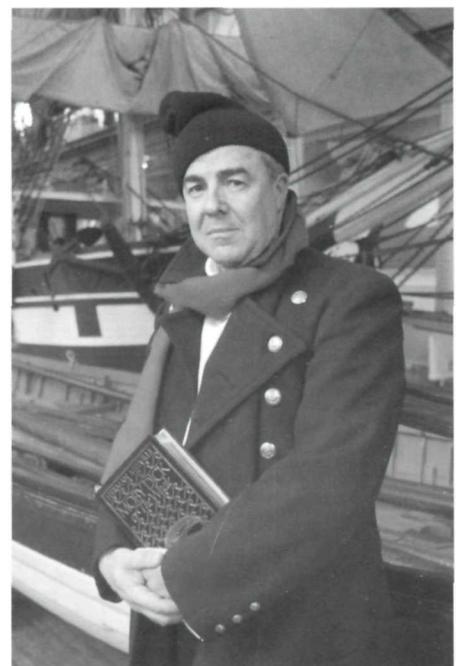
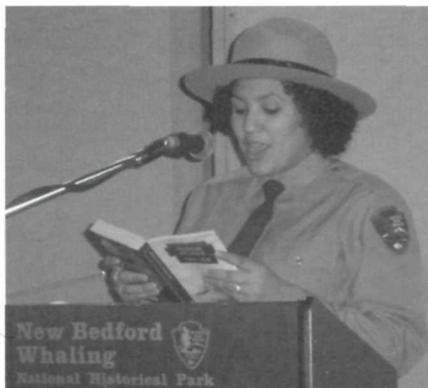
Despite the cold of an early January day, folks from all walks of life and from all over the country converged in New Bedford to listen to the words of Herman Melville, spoken through the characters of the novel *Moby-Dick*, ring through the New Bedford Whaling Museum over a 25 hour period. Held on January 3rd for the last seven years, the event commemorates the anniversary of Melville's departure from New Bedford on the whaleship *Acushnet* in 1841. This year, as in year's past, chapters were read in several languages including Portuguese, German, Japanese and Inupiaq and guest readers came from as far away as Alaska. Herb Anungazuk, Native Liaison & Heritage Specialist for the National Park Service in Anchorage made his third trip to New Bedford for the event. Seven hundred people attended the marathon reading and a record number of people managed to stay for the entire 25 hours. Those hardy souls earned a copy of *Moby-Dick* for their endurance.



The Jacobs Family Gallery provided a dramatic setting at this year's event.

**“In this same New Bedford there stands a Whaleman’s Chapel, and few are the moody fisherman, shortly bound for the Indian Ocean or Pacific, who fail to make a Sunday visit to the spot.”**

**Herman Melville, *Moby-Dick*, 1851**



Above Left: Father Mapple delivers his sermon in the Seamen's Bethel. Top Middle: Park Superintendent John Piltzecker, Herb Anungazuk & Lee Heald, Director for Programs, New Bedford Whaling Museum. Above Middle: Park Ranger Alexandria Allen takes part in the reading. Above Right: Ray Veary of New Bedford as Ishmael.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park

**STAFF**

**Superintendent**  
John Piltzecker

**Deputy Superintendent**  
Thomas E. Ross

**Administrative Program Specialist**  
Michelle Spink

**Historical Architect**  
Derek Santos

**Chief of Visitor Services**  
Jennifer Gonsalves

**Park Ranger-Youth Programs Coordinator**  
Frank Barrows

**Park Ranger- Visitor Use Assistant**  
Emir Morais

**Park Ranger- Visitor Use Assistant**  
Alexandria Allen

This newsletter was produced in  
partnership with:

**New Bedford Area  
Chamber of Commerce**  
794 Purchase Street  
P.O. Box 8827  
New Bedford, MA  
02742



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park  
33 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

# AHA!

**Art, History, & Architecture**

Downtown New Bedford's Arts & Culture Gallery Night

the second Thursday of each month  
**5-9 PM**

All venues, programs, parking and  
shuttle are **FREE!**

**Thursday, March 13**

**"Art Rocks New Bedford"**

**Thursday, April 10**

**"Fast Forward"**

**Thursday, May 8**

**"Final Framing"**

[www.ahanewbedford.org](http://www.ahanewbedford.org)

Prsrt. Std.  
U.S. Postage PAID  
New Bedford, MA  
Permit # 32