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MUSEUM OPENS NEW EXHIBIT, SANDY FISHER'S EDGARTOWN Opening Reception: Friday, October 21st from 5-7pm

Edgartown, MA—October 17, 2016 — Francis E. (Sandy) Fisher Jr. (1916-2014), the oldest commercial fisherman on the Vineyard when he died at the age of 98, was known for his vivid recollections of Edgartown in the early years of the 20th century. His stories are the subject of the Museum's newest exhibit, *Sandy Fisher's Edgartown*, guest curated by volunteer Sally Pierce, opening Friday, October 21st.

Sally Pierce spent 34 years as Curator of Prints at the Boston Athenaeum. Now retired, she spent the winter of 2013-2014 cataloguing works on paper as part of a larger project supported by a grant from Edgartown's Community Preservation Act. Always looking for an idea for an exhibit, she was struck by the stories and detail Sandy told that were recorded in his obituary written by Tom Dunlop and published in the *Vineyard Gazette* in May 2014. "Sandy Fisher was talking about all these things that I had seen depicted in works on paper in the Museum collection," says Sally. "It was then that I got the idea for the exhibit, and the Museum curators were completely on-board."

The new exhibit features items from the Museum's collection that represent Edgartown during Sandy Fisher's life and use his words to bring them to life. Visitors can hear the stories he relates in oral history interviews, and experience the Edgartown of his formative years through watercolors, prints, photographs, ship models, objects, and film footage that bring his stories to life.

"This is a perfect example of the way our collections complement each other, our physical collections and our oral histories," says Museum Chief Curator Bonnie Stacy. "The ideas for exhibits can come out of any number of places. Here, Sally was inspired and able to pull these threads together. So often this turns out to be the case with this collection – we'll have a couple of things with a story behind them, and suddenly you realize there are so many things here that contribute to the story."

Sandy Fisher's Edgartown will open on Friday, October 21st with a reception from 5-7pm. The opening reception is free and open to all. Guest curator Sally Pierce will present a talk on the exhibit on Tuesday, October 25th at 5:30pm in the Museum Library. Admission to the talk is \$8 for members, and \$12 for non-members. The exhibit will be on display in the galleries through January 28, 2017.

Visit www.mvmuseum.org for more information about upcoming programming and exhibits. The Martha's Vineyard Museum inspires all people to discover, explore, and strengthen their connections to this Island and its diverse heritage. The Museum is open year round. Summer hours are Monday-Saturday 10am to 5pm, and Sundays Noon to 5pm. Admission is free to Members; admission for non-Members is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$5 for children 6 to 12 and free for children under 6.