

Harry Shourds

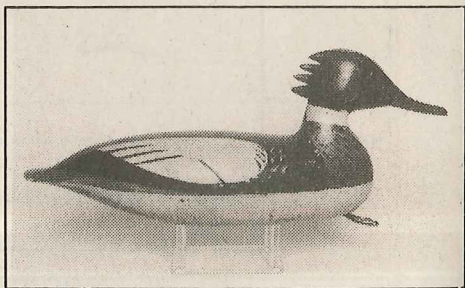
New Jersey's most famous old-time decoy carver.

Harry V. Shourds (1861-1920) whose likeness has been captured forever on the porch of the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum, Tuckerton, was New Jersey's most famous old-time decoy carver.

Shourds carved several thousand decoys at the turn of the century. His work is featured in the book "New Jersey Decoys" by Henry Fleckenstein, also "Decoys: A North American Survey," by Gene and Linda Kangas. Shourds's decoys usually sell in the \$1,000 to \$10,000 price range, if they are in mint condition. A rare, hollow red-breasted merganser hen decoy, carved by Shourds in the late 1800s, was auctioned in July in Maine by the decoy auction firm of Gary Guyette and Frank M. Schmidt Inc. and brought a final bid of \$28,700, which included the 10 percent buyer's premium.



Harry Shourds' lifelike image on the porch at the museum.



The red-breasted merganser decoy carved in 1880 by Harry Shourds