

CAROLYN CHADWICK

Carolyn Chadwick first set foot in Barnegat at the age of 11 in the fifth grade. It was there she met her husband of the future, John Chadwick, who happened to be Mr. Perrine's protege. Mr. Perrine, of course, being the famous builder of the Barnegat Bay sneakboxes. It was to Mr. Perrine's home on Brook Street in Barnegat that John Chadwick brought his bride. With Mr. Chadwick in the service and gone a lot, Carolyn was taught to make the sails for the sneakboxes Mr. Perrine was building. The boat shop was just two houses away, on School Street: a big three-story dusty, cedar-smelling workshop.

Carolyn would accompany Mr. Perrine to Philadelphia where she learned how to pick out the bolts of canvas to use for the sails.

CONKLIN AWARDS

continued from page 14

She and Mr. Perrine would sit on the porch and mark the canvas, using patterns and cut them out and with his supervision she sewed sails, breakwaters, clam shoes and anything with canvas she could do. Being left-handed, Carolyn had to be fitted with a special palm to push the needle through. Carolyn's sails were used on 12, 16 and 18-foot boats. She acquired a heavy duty sewing machine that she still has today, and her sails adorned the first sneakboxes sold to the Island Heights Yacht Club. They were in the 12-foot diamond class. Later, other yacht clubs came to her for repairs and to put numbers on the sails of the racing boats.

Business slowed with the death of Mr. Perrine, and then her husband, and Carolyn found employment outside her home. Carolyn is retired now, and still lives in the Perrine house that he built in 1930. Her son, John Chadwick, who lives downstairs, is keeping on with the family tradition of sneakbox building on the old Perrine estate.