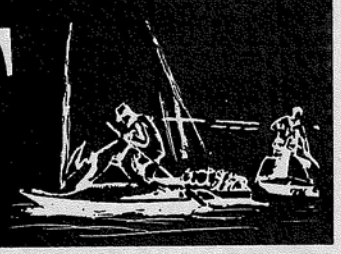
BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & BAYMEN'S MUSEUM '92 ANNUAL REPORT



Museum Organization Begins Preserving a Local Legacy

How We Started, Where We're Going

They say you don't know what you've got till it's gone. It's not that way in Tuckerton.

A museum based here and dedicated to preserving the bay area's traditions is evolving almost as a necessity. Its seeds took root generations ago when a unique breed of folk found sustenance, solace and sport from the bay. The museum is being cultivated today while a few vestiges of that way of life remain.

The Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum formally began in 1990, when a group of local people recognized the need to preserve the old ways that are rapidly disappearing.

They formed a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping alive the waterfowling, decoy carving, boat building and other traditions singular to the area. Enthusiasm spread and the first few members soon grew to a membership of more than 400.

They may have recognized the need in time. Each older generation member who passes on takes a bit more history with him, but the museum founders have already begun chronicling their lore. Every step removed from our heritage is a step farther from knowing who we are today.

The Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum is open to anyone who cares about the local legacy, is fascinated by it and determined to preserve it.

For more information, return the membership form or write P.O. Box 52, Tuckerton, NJ 08087.

Milestones

In just the last year, the museum organization has achieved several milestones toward its goal. We're proud to list among recent developments:

- A reception for state, county and local elected officials last spring unveiled museum plans and gained widespread support.
- A grantsman has been hired to secure funding from private and non-private sources to expedite the building of the planned $1 million museum facility in Tuckerton.
- Siting was granted by the County of Ocean for an annex building so that the museum can open to the public while the larger facility is being built. Groundbreaking awaits only a few remaining approvals.
- Membership doubled through the efforts of our first membership drive. The museum has obtained members from as far away as Florida, Colorado and Hawaii.
- The New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism has agreed to include the museum in all its promotional literature distributed throughout the state once the museum opens.
- Nonprofit status has been recognized for the museum by the Internal Revenue Service (501 C3 status), the State of New Jersey and the U.S. Postal Service.
- Our first golf tournament, held at the Ocean County Golf Course at Atlantis to raise funds for the museum, was a success.
- Significant additions to the museum's collections and archives have been acquired, including more than 2,000 photographs and numerous interviews with area residents who hold fascinating stories of passing generations. Vintage 1940s 8 mm film capturing duck hunting scenes on Barnegat Bay has also been converted to VHS tape for the public to enjoy.

The museum association would like to thank all those supporters, too numerous to mention, who have thus far contributed to making the museum a reality.