

BARNEGAT BAY DECOY & BAYMEN'S MUSEUM



Logbooks of Jay Parker, donated by his son Weldon, reveal the past in pictures and pages.

Some of What's in Store

The museum has collected ...

- Logbooks chock full of history — Jay C. Parker (1882-1967) kept meticulous records of his days as bayman, politician, observer of the times. Now they're an open book on the past.

- Miniature black duck carved



An event Jay Parker was most proud of: Audubon Society auction in April 1963. If you were there, we'd like to hear from you.

Call 294-1971.

- by Jay Parker in the 1950s — one of a few out of collectors' hands for public display

- 1920s Barnegat Bay sneakbox in mint condition, donated by Joel and Wanda Montgomery of Loveladies.

- Old clam rakes, clam tongs, oyster tongs, classic implements, simple but effective.

- More than 2,000 photographs: Generations of boat captains, boats brimming with oysters, mainland and Long Beach Island landmarks, many unique scenes of bygone times.

- Vintage film of bay sportsmen: rare footage of duck hunting in the 1940s on Flat Creek in Barnegat Bay, with Willard "Bill" Inman and Milt Cranmer.

Schedule a Slide Show

If pictures are worth a thousand words, a slide show compiled by the museum tells volumes about a fascinating past.

Right here along Barnegat Bay and beyond, big-league baseball stars like Babe Ruth played at the waterfowling sport. Trains bore passengers bound for the beach across a wooden causeway. Grand old hotels bought fish by the hundreds at pennies a pound. Men cast out in tiny sneakboxes to spend days on island houseboats, or in rugged garveys to haul in enough clams to earn a living.

Museum association members are available to bring the South Jersey bay tradition to your group or organization. Slide shows of any length can be arranged. Contact John Gormley, (609) 294-1971 after 5 p.m. or Harry Disbrow Jr. at (609) 296-7111 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.