



# Port Norris

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Port Norris Historical Society is dedicated to preserving the history of our unique village, located in Commercial Township in Cumberland County, NJ.

**PNHS Next meeting: March 12, 2019 7:00 pm • 1723 Main Street**  
[Visit our website for more details.](#)



## HISTORICAL SKETCH of PORT NORRIS

By Harry Barraclough

*The historical sketches were written in the early 1960's.*  
[See more](#)

When Port Norris was first settled it was located in what was then Downe Township; later, however, Commercial Township was set apart from Downe and incorporated by an act of legislature approved February 27, 1874.

The tract of land having been more widely distributed, many new land owners took up their residence here so that streets were laid out and a school and meeting house was erected by the Baptists in 1856, but later a new school with a bell was finished and occupied in 1812 and in 1917 a modern and commodious brick high school building was completed to meet an urgent need and a popular demand.

The first post office was established September 12, 1870, with Henry S. Robbins being the first postmaster.

In the early development of the town some of the inhabitants attended the church at Haleyville and had local class organizations. The growing importance of Port Norris demanded a church of its own, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1871 and dedicated January 17, 1872, by Rev. Thomas Fernley, assisted by Presiding Elder Ballard and others. Twelve years later a new church was erected at North Port Norris, where there was also established a school. Many of the old residents of Port Norris were of the Baptist faith and attended the Baptist Church at Dividing Creek until their own edifice was erected in Port Norris in 1880.

As agriculture became more extensive and diversified and the oyster growing more popular and more thoroughly understood, a rope factory was established by the J. W. Paxon Company of Philadelphia, managed by the late Owen J. Camey, Sr., to make hay-rope from the grass from the extensive salt marshes. This was conducted later by A. B. Campbell and Mr.

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**Historical Sketch of Port Norris**

By Harry C. Barraclough

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Carney until the latter's death. As the demand for this product diminished to a great extent it was carried on on a part time basis by Mr. Carney's son, Gilbert and Mr. Campbell until Gilbert's death a little over a year ago, as the Port Norris Hay Rope Co. O. J. Carney, Jr., is now conducting the business at his home on the corner of Brown St. and Maurice Ave., on a part time basis. Marine railways were erected to build and repair oyster boats, which were already becoming quite numerous.

Then shops were built for the manufacture and repair of oyster dredges, sail-lofts were established, ship chandleries sprung up and numerous stores of all kinds occupied the business section of the town. A modern new hotel was built to take the place of the tavern erected a half century before. The hotel was destroyed by fire a few years ago. A new brick firehouse was built in 1916 and housed two modern motor chemical engines with pumper. Since that time a modern new fire house has been erected and all modern fire-fighting apparatus has been installed and the old fire house is now used as the municipal hall.

# Scrapbook

It is always fun to find old receipts and see what prices were "back in the day".



## Maker of Sails

Awnings, Tents, and General Canvas Work



To **E. B. COBB** Dr.

March. Schr. Langhamer.  
To Repairing Sails  
Labor 20 hours. X  
Duck 12 yds. 65¢  
Rope 6 lbs. 35¢  
No Charge Paid

20.00  
7.80  
2.10  
\$29.90



Ed Cobb, Sailmaker

### STATEMENT

PORT NORRIS, N. J. 193

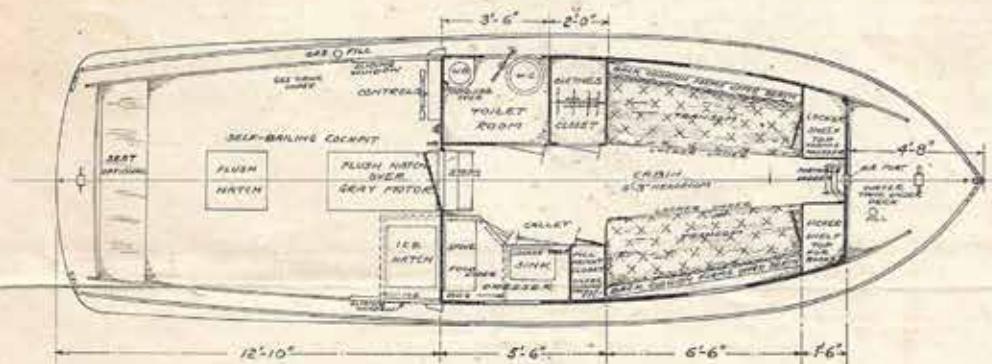
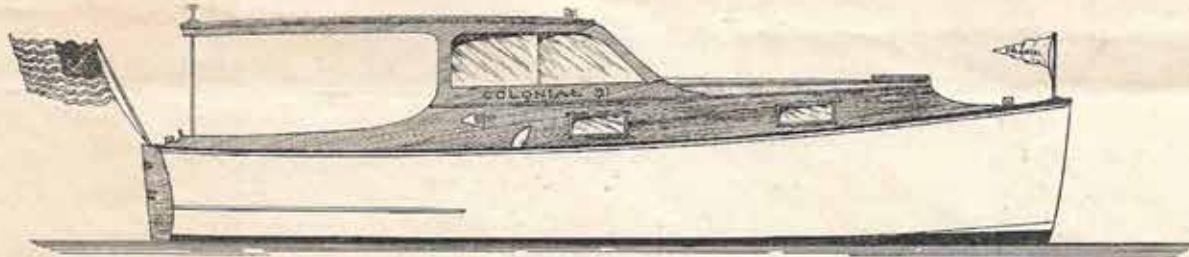
To **E. L. WARREN LUMBER CO., INC. DR.**  
LUMBER AND BUILDER'S SUPPLIES

Plumbers	75.00
9 ft 5" belt	1.40
5 ft 2" "	1.50
6 ft 4" - double length	64.24
1-2" pulley	1.00
1-4" "	6.00
2-24"	
27 ft belt 6" double length	31.68
24" " 9" "	53.76
28" " 4" "	134.4
1-24" pulley	6.00
1-10" "	2.00
2 lbs 1 hook	4.0
14 ft 7 1/2" wire	4.2
"	
1 bar 1 1/4" - 23 lbs	4.0
1-3/8" window	2.0
1/2" wire 100' roll	5.0
	263.98

	HORN WIRING	PHONE 120	POWER WIRING
Port Norris, N. J. May 21 1929			
M C L Warren Lumber Co			
To <b>Wm. Meredith</b> Dr.			
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR			
ALL WORK AND MATERIAL GUARANTEED			
RCA			FADA RADI
1928			
7-16-28 4 1/2" wire 100' - men	7.25		
Solder + Tape	.20		
10 ft BX cable	.50		
2 BX Connectors	.10		
2-1/2" Pipe Caps	.40		
3 Pct Straps	.03		
4 1/2 ft boom	1.26		
100 knobs	3.00		
56" zinc Tubes	.84		
300 ft #14 Wire	4.50		
6 Cleat Rec	1.20		
3 Cleat Boxes	.40		
3 Pull Sockets	1.20		
4 ft wood Mldg	.20		
1 single Pole switch	.40		
1 Por. zw base	.10		
24 screws	.06		
2 Brass screws	.02		
1-100 watt bulb	.40	31.56	
1 1/2" wire - men	1.50		
Solder + Tape	.20	1.70	
May 21 1/2" wire	.40		
2 snap sw + base	.00		
4 ft Mldg + Capping	.20		
16 ft Heavy Duty cord	1.92	3.52	
13 ft BX Cable	.40		
1 Cleat Rec	.20	1.10	
			27.88

# COLONIAL CRUISERS

## New 31-Foot Models



Colonial sets a new pace with greater values than ever before in spite of increasing prices generally.

The new models provide real living room—the biggest little cruiser afloat. Models to sleep four or six in comfort.

Built for ocean service with heavy planking, 4" keel.

Modern in appearance, complete in appointments, beautifully finished.

Surprisingly low in price.

**COLONIAL CRUISERS ARE  
GREATEST VALUE AT LEAST COST.  
(WRITE FOR COMPLETE CATALOG)**



STREAMLINED SEDAN



SPORT FISHERMAN



STANDARD CRUISER

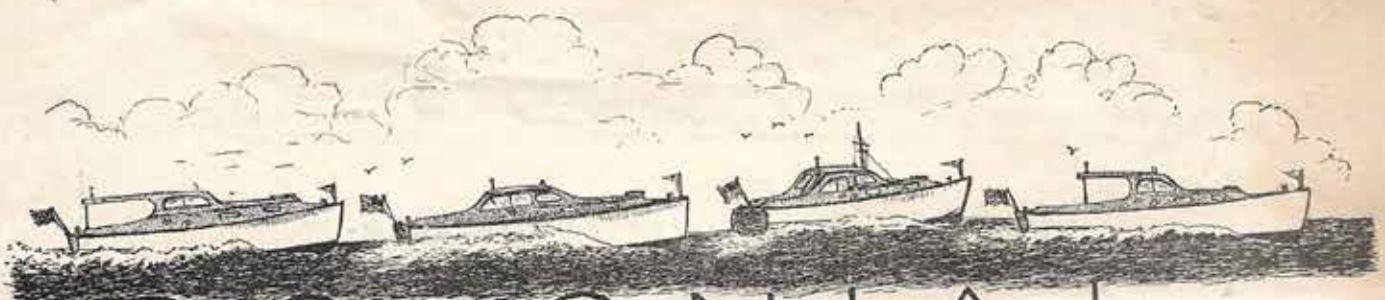
ALSO DOUBLE STATEROOM & AFT STATEROOM MODELS.

# COLONIAL BOAT COMPANY

PORT NORRIS

NEW JERSEY

Donated by Donald Flanigan.



# COLONIAL

We are proud to present our new 31 foot models. For a long time we have been preparing for these unusual boats. The construction is heavy all the way through—heavy keel, heavy framing, full 1" planking—not an "egg shell" hull.

Years of experience are built into every Colonial. Our Naval Architect, William J. Deed, has specialized in small cruiser design for almost thirty years. The workmen themselves have, as their people before them, been accustomed to building staunch commercial vessels that must stand the most severe blow.

We honestly feel that if you will calmly study the cruisers available on the standardized boat market you will arrive at the conclusion that the Colonial Cruiser offers the largest boat for the money, a boat which is a thoroughbred, which is "snappy" in appearance, fast and economical in power, strong, safe—and a good investment.

## GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS—(All Models):

### Dimensions:

Length—31 feet; Breadth—10 feet.

Draft—30 inches.

Freeboard—Forward 55", Aft 37".

### Design:

Our modified concave V-bottom underbody provides a boat which is exceptionally steady in a seaway. It is also very fast for the horse power, as the water passes aft under the boat, buoying it up, reducing resistance, preventing squatting, reducing wave formation and increasing steadiness. It "turns on a dime"; does not pound. Try Colonial in a rough sea!

### Construction:

Keel 4"x14" white oak. Frames 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " on 12" centers. Frames, chine log, knees at chine, floor timbers, clear white oak. Planking full 1" clear white cedar, copper fastened. Stern transom double, total 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " outside Philippine Mahogany. Trunk cabin, windshield, cockpit coaming and interior trim Philippine Mahogany. Frames and floor timbers bolted together and to keel by screw bolts.

### Metal Fittings:

Bronze inboard rudder, strut, shoe, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ " shaft, propeller, shaft log and stuffing box. All deck hardware cast brass.

### Steering:

Controlled by worm gear and shaft instead of by tiller ropes.

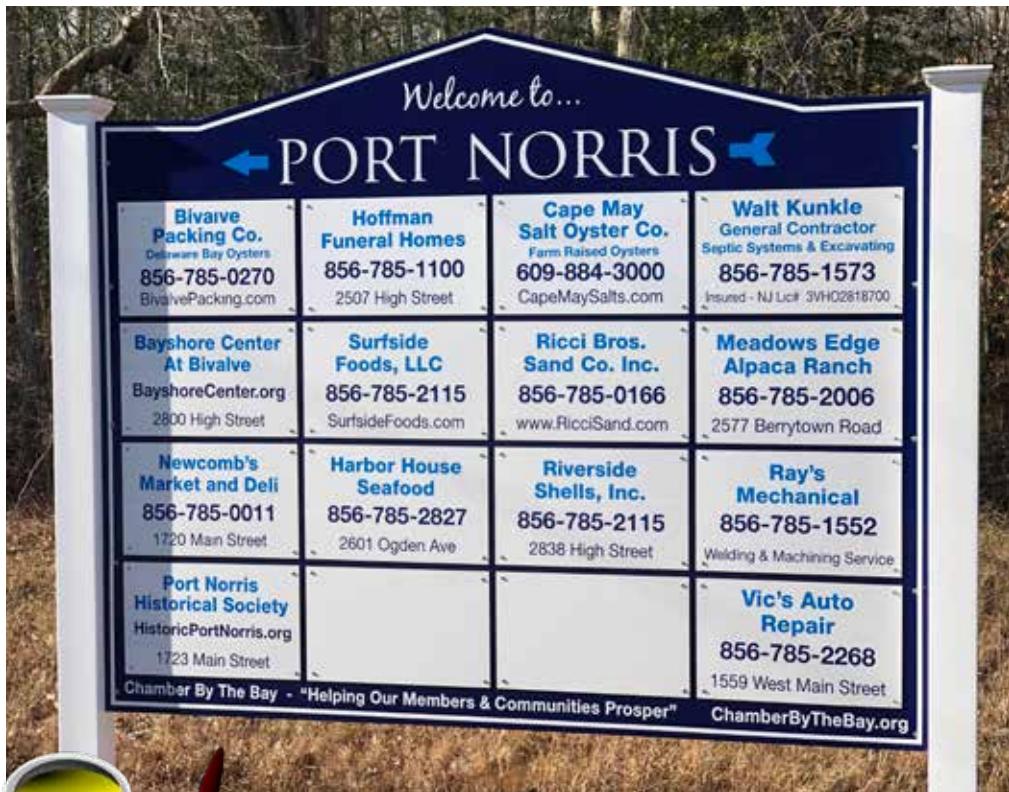
### Equipment:

Anchor and cable, mooring lines, liquid alcohol stove, electric running lights, four life preservers, flag poles, yacht ensign, burgee, fog horn, bell, electric signal horn, bilge pump, fire extinguisher, tank measuring rod, 30 gallon fresh water tank, 50 gallon gasoline tank, tools, pilot rules, 6 volt electric system supplying cabin and running lights.

### Motor:

6-71 Gray Marine Motor, 3-3/16"x4-3/8". 209 cubic inch displacement is standard unless otherwise specified. Equipped with instrument panel with tachometer, Thermoset, magnetic starting switch, starter, generator, gasoline strainer, fuel pump, flame arrestor, storage battery, etc. Gasoline tank filled outside of cockpit and vent carried overboard. All motor controls are within easy reach of steering controls. Other motors optional.

Hull finished inside with "Burnot" fire resistant paint. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. All prices are afloat, Port Norris, N. J. Purchaser to pay sales tax when, and if, levied.



There is a new sign located at the intersection of North Ave. and Mauricetown Rd. This was a Chamber by the Bay project. We are pleased with the outcome.

Commercial Township Chamber of Commerce includes all of the Cumberland County Bayshore Communities. Proudly known as the Chamber by the Bay. Please check out the chamber members and support local Bayshore businesses and organizations.



## PNHS Meeting Hall UPDATE

It has been a while since we have updated you about the work on the PNHS Meeting Hall. Since all the work is currently being done on the inside, progress is less obvious to the passer-by.

The electric is nearly complete on the second floor. Once that is finished and the lights installed, work will resume on the main floor ceiling.

The other important item is the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant restroom. The walls have been painted a sunny yellow and light grey and a nice grey floor has been laid to match.

We can still use help with lighting. If you would like to support our continued work please visit our website. Thank you.

[historicportnorris.org/buy-lights.htm](http://historicportnorris.org/buy-lights.htm)



## Port Norris Pickings

### January 25, 1888

The extremely cold weather of the last few days has closed Maurice River at this place, it being frozen from shore to shore, and a number of men can be seen fishing.



### February 3, 1890

Misses Mellie Orr and Lizzie Ladow, of Dividing Creek, are visiting Mrs. Charles Whitaker. The Sunday schools were not very well attended on account of the inclement weather and sickness.

The shooting match that was announced to have taken place Saturday, in last week's paper, between the Turkey Point Gunning Club and the championship club of this place was postponed on account of the stormy appearance of the weather.



### NORRIS ASKS

**Do you know how old Harry C. Barracough was when he started the *Advertiser*?**

A studious child, Harry continued his studies at home. He began working at the printing trade, and at age fourteen, he took charge of a printing office.

At sixteen, he founded the weekly "The Port Norris Advertiser", a four-column, four-page weekly. His business expanded in 1912, with the construction of a new printing office located just south of Main and Pearl Streets, on the east side of the entrance of what is now a bike path just south of Dickey's Ditch.

His newspaper was a great supporter of local civic improvements. He organized the first Port Norris Chamber of Commerce, with his newspaper always pushing for social improvements in town. [Read More](#)



© Port Norris Historical Society 2019

**Please Note:** Meeting dates and times are posted on the website each month along with the approved minutes from the last meeting. Everyone is always welcome. [Click here to view.](#)

## Membership and Renew for 2019

We would love to add your name to our growing list of members. Please give some thought to joining the PNHS.

Membership fees are for  
Individual - \$10, Family - \$15,  
Benefactor - \$50 and over, and  
Student - \$1 (no voting privileges)  
and entitles you to discounts  
on our merchandise.

[Click here to renew or join,](http://historicportnorris.org/membership.htm)  
[historicportnorris.org/membership.htm](http://historicportnorris.org/membership.htm)

Or mail your check to: Port Norris  
Historical Society, PO Box 187  
Port Norris, NJ 08349.

Thank you for your support. Membership is key to applying for grants as well as your dollars help us continue with all of our endeavours.

*Membership fees are tax deductible.*

**See us on Facebook  
and our website**  
[historicportnorris.org](http://historicportnorris.org)

If you are getting this email from a friend and would like to be added to our list, please [click here](#) and we will add you. If we received your email at one of our events, and if you do not wish to receive this newsletter, click here [web@historicportnorris.org](mailto:web@historicportnorris.org), we will remove you from the list. We do not sell or share your email with anyone!

### Officers

Rachel Cobb, President

Richard Smith, Vice-President

Alvina Baum, Secretary

Mary Linda Locotte, Assist. Secretary

Faye Hickman, Treasurer

### Trustees

Eileen Bernhardt

Ginny Campbell

Gloria Guidera

John Hickman

Elizabeth Hoffman

Joyce Massey

Sam Ricci

Rev. E. Barnes, Lifetime Honorary Trustee

For a complete list of committees see our website. [View Here](#)