

SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

PROVIDING INFORMATION TO THE COMMUNITIES OF WENONA, DEAL ISLAND, CHANCE, AND DAMES QUARTER

In this Issue...

Culture Corner	Community Recipes	Community News	Community Photos	Calendar of Events
1	3	3	7	8

Text Too Small? -Press “Control” and scroll up to make text larger. Tap and stretch fingers to zoom on a mobile device or tablet. Print newsletter from email, not Facebook.



CULTURE CORNER

THE OYSTER KING OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY

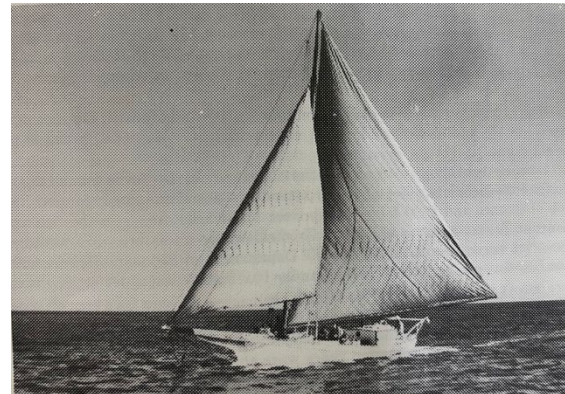
BY BEN EVANS

Ben Evans was a correspondent for The Baltimore Sun, Daily Times, and Maryland and Herald whose stories were reprinted by the Marylander and Herald in 1977 in a book titled Memories of Steamboats, Campmeetings, Skipjacks, and the Islands of the Chesapeake. The story excerpted here is for your reading pleasure.

The panorama of the boats in Baltimore’s Canton basin in the early 1920s was a stirring site to a young boy born on Deal Island. I had seen many dredge boats in the harbor of my hometown and Crisfield but nothing compared to this. At anchor in the basin and tied to Webster’s Wharf were all types of Chesapeake Bay oyster workboats, schooners, bugeyes, skipjacks, pungies, sloops, etc.

My cousin, a waterman whom I was with, had business with the man who owned most of the boats; in fact, it was said he owed 99 but, due to various reasons could never make it 100. His name was Tom

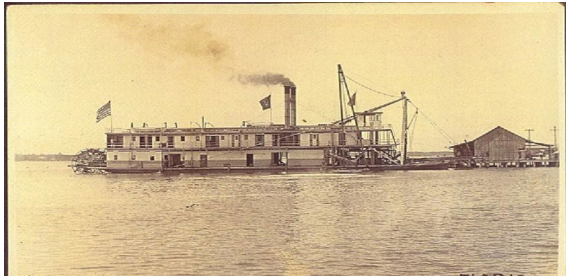
Webster. If any man could have been called the Oyster King of the Chesapeake Bay it would have been “Capt. Tom”. He was, in fact, called that on many occasions during his lifetime.



We first visited the N.W. Webster Bros. ship chandler store on Boston St. across from the wharf. This building was stocked with all types of boat supplies. Standing around were waterman talking about their boats and cargo. We were told Mr. Webster was on the wharf or aboard one of his boats. He wasn’t easy to find as he was frequently taken for one of the crew, dressing as he did very inconspicuously for a man of his wealth and standing. His familiar trademark was a front pocket of a coat or shirt filled with cigars. He was never without them, always one in his mouth – never lit – but well chewed.

Thomas B. Webster was born on Deal Island October 8, 1853. On this same day, just a few hundred yards away, the famed Parson of the Islands, Joshua Thomas, died. Thomas B. was one of 14 children. Several of his brothers were also successful members of the oyster trade, owning and operating quite a few boats of their own.

“Capt. Tom”, like most boys of the bay islands, followed the water at an early age. His formal education was naturally limited. Exhibiting unusual business ability for one so young, he came to Baltimore and, with his brothers, started a ship chandlery business. Ever the admirer of the dredge boat, he began to buy interest in and build the large fleet he was to operate until his death in 1924.



Webster’s contemporaries contended that at his death the oyster business decidedly went downhill. Apparently, he was the biggest man in the oyster industry hereabouts during his lifetime. It was said at one time he handled 75% of all oysters coming into Baltimore. If “Capt. Tom” didn’t sell their catch, at times the oystermen were hard put to find a buyer.

Usually he met his own boats, rowing out in a small skiff and directing them to a pier or canning house to dispose of their cargo. Mr. Albert Anderson, former operator of a ship chandler business at Deal Island, related that many times the companion in the boat with Mr. Webster would be Albanus Philips whose name became

synonymous with the canning industry on the Eastern shore.

The canning of oysters was one of his projects. He had interest in a number of houses. One, incidentally, the Webster – Butterfield Cannery, had the distinction of being the first to can spinach.



During the teens, a statement by the health authorities boosted the oyster trade immensely. It was their contention that the high

iodine content of oysters was beneficial in curtailing the growth of goiter, an ailment prevalent at the time. This was a boom also to Mr. Webster’s canning business. At the head of the bay during these years there were a great many green gilled oysters with a rough taste, though just as good in health value as other oysters. They were hard to sell and brought way under the average market price. Mr. Webster bought all of these he could, canned them and sold them throughout the country, beating his competitors to a fine profit.



The control of such a large fleet of boats gave him quite some stature in the state offices at Annapolis. He

was instrumental in helping the waterman in many of their fights for improving conditions.

His fairness in his dealings was legendary among the waterman. It was through “Capt. Tom” that many were given a chance to captain a dredge boat. Most all Lower Bay men, especially those of his hometown Deal

Island, and nearby communities, worked at one time or another for Mr. Webster.

The greatest interest in life for Capt. Tom was his fleet of boats. He never married. At his death he left what was for those days quite a fortune. Capt. Tom's remains lie in the cemetery of St. John's Methodist Church on Deal Island. The late Mr. Roland Parks told me of attending the ceremony when a large monument was placed at his gravesite. He heard Capt. J. West Bozeman remark pointing to Capt. Tom's lack of pretense and "show". "All Capt. Tom would have wanted would be a pile of oyster shells." He played a big part in making the name of Chesapeake Bay seafood known around the world.

COMMUNITY RECIPES

The following recipes were excerpted from "Shore Fare", a book of favorite recipes compiled by the United Methodist Women of St. John's Methodist Church, 1982.

CRAB SPREAD from Melva Bertier
 1 lb. back fin crabmeat ½ jar capers
 2 c. mayonnaise. Parmesan cheese
 Mix ingredients. Put in a baking dish. Sprinkle top with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve with crackers.



CURRY DIP from Carolyn Hall
 1 c. mayonnaise. 3 tbsp. honey
 3 tbsp. grated onion. 3 tbsp. catsup
 3 drops Tabasco. ½ c. cream cheese
 1 ½ tsp. dry mustard 3 tsp. curry powder

Beat all together and chill. Good with raw cauliflower, celery sticks and carrots.

COMMUNITY NEWS

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRIES

St. Paul's Church- Contact Pastor David Webster at 443-783-1007 (area churches combined pantry)

Deal Island Elementary School- Contact Principal Ashley Walters at 410-784-2449

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The DI-C Lions Club assists in the provision of medical equipment to members of our community. All equipment is collected via donation. This service helps relieve the financial burden this type of purchase can bring. Donations are always accepted of items such as: wheelchairs, rollators and walkers, shower chairs and tub transfer benches, hospital beds, bedside commodes, wheelchair ramps, etc. Please contact Roy Ford at 410-422-0339 if you have a request for assistance or if you have any medical equipment to donate.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS WANTED

Do you have a story to tell? A memory to share? An event of interest to the community? Please email: skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com We want to hear from you!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Deal Island Community, we need your help! We are accepting donations of individually-wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs (large) and toys to be used as "special" egg prizes.

We also need volunteers to help fill eggs at St. John's Church Hall. Drop-in any days and times you can help between 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday, 3/18- 3/22. Our goal remains 5,000 eggs for our community's children!

Donations of candy, eggs, toys and money can be dropped off to Shirley Massey, Shelley Webster or Carrie Day. Additionally, Deal Island School, St. John's Church and Rock Creek Church are drop-off points. We would like to have all donations by Monday, March 18.

Thank you for your help and support in providing another wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for our community's children.



RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE PROJECT

Pull Together for the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore! The 22B Lions Clubs are collecting pull tabs! You can help us in our efforts! We are inviting churches, organizations and individuals to collect pull tabs from soda, fruit and vegetable cans for the next several months. How can a pull tab

help? We will combine all of the tabs collected and they will be weighed at a recycling center. The proceeds will then be given to the Ronald McDonald House who in turn will use the money to fuel their vans. For more information, visit www.22bliions.org and click on district projects.

Please contact any member of the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club if you have tabs to donate.



SKIPJACK MUSEUM WINTER HOURS

Skipjack Heritage Museum will be open Saturday's only from 11:00 to 3:00 during the month of February. Private showings are available anytime by calling 443-783-5180. If you would like to partner with us, memberships are available. Memberships help with operating expenses. Annual memberships are: Individual \$25, Family \$50, Sponsor \$150, and Lifetime \$500.

We are looking for volunteers to help us open on weekends throughout the year, as well as participate in special events. We welcome everyone to visit with us and hope new friendships will be made as together we strive to preserve the heritage of the greater Deal Island area.



UPDATE ON DREDGING PROJECT



Starting Wednesday January 31st, expect to see increased construction traffic as crews work to remove the pieces of dredge pipeline that remain on site. The pipeline has been used to carry the dredge material from the Lower Wicomico River to place sediment on the marsh. The contractor will be using the grassy fields behind the Wildlife Management Area gate at the Dames Quarter Farm complex. They will begin transporting the pipes from the Dames Quarter Creek - Rt. 363 area starting Wednesday, January 31st.

You can expect to see tractor trailers backing off of Deal Island Road onto the farm lane for loading. You may see cautionary signage along the roadways to alert motorists about trucks entering and exiting the roadway. It is expected to take two to three weeks to remove the pipeline.

LOVE DINNER FOR SENIORS

Seniors, you are cordially invited to join us for a complimentary dinner
Saturday, February 17.

Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. with seating ending at 6:00 p.m.
Deal Island-Chance Fire Hall



Spaghetti with Meat/Meatless Sauce
Caesar Salad
Garlic Bread
Dessert



Seats are first come, first served.
Please RSVP by February 7 so that we can adequately prepare.
Limited delivery also available.

Wendy Seiler 443-614-7697
Carrie Day 443-614-9926
Email: skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com



Please note the Love Dinner's intended audience is seniors (60+). It is a free meal; however, RSVP is important as it will be helpful in our planning.

- If one spouse is 60+ and the other is not, you are both more than welcome to attend.
- If you are seniors and babysitting your grandkids that evening, you are welcome to bring them.
- Limited delivery is available. If you are able, we would love to see you in person but if you are ill, without transportation, or simply prefer your own company, please sign up for a delivery.
- If you are in need, no matter your age, please reach out. We can arrange a delivery for you.

OYSTER SANDWICHES

Fried oyster sandwiches will be for sale at Deal-Island Chance Fire department on February 10th from 11:00 am until we run out. Come and get them!



UV RESIN WOODEN CHARCUTERIE BOARD WORKSHOP



FEBRUARY
17, 2024
10A-1P

\$30
per person

ROCK CREEK CHURCH
23580 DEAL ISLAND RD
CHANCE, MD



TO SIGN UP, VISIT SOCCOURTS.ORG







**MARYLAND
FOOD BANK**
UNTIL HUNGER ENDS

*Free Food
Free Resources*

Delivering Hope to
Our Neighbors

SHOP the TRUCK!

The Maryland Food Bank Eastern Shore's **MOBILE MARKET** is visiting!
We're inviting ALL to receive healthy foods and resources.
Hop on board and shop the truck, fresh groceries and dry goods will be offered.

THURSDAY February 29th
12:00pm – 2:00pm (or until done)
Deal Island Volunteer Fire Department
10090 Deal Island Road, Deal Island, MD



Ages 12 & Under

Community

Easter Egg Hunt

St. John's Church

9883 Deal Island Rd.



Bring
Your
Own
Basket



Saturday, March 23

Rain Date: March 30

10:00 a.m.




For more information, please contact Carrie Day at diclions58@gmail.com or 443-614-9926.



Charcuterie Board Making

March 2, 2024
10a-1p

\$25
per person



Rock Creek Church
23580 Deal Island Road
Chance, Maryland

Virtual All-In Quarter Auction!

A Fundraiser benefitting the Deal Island- Chance Fire Company

1 for \$30



4 for \$100

Saturday, March 16th @ 5:00 pm via Facebook Live

Contact Tracy Horner @ 443-235-0554 to purchase a number or to make a prize donation.

PRIZES INCLUDE:
GIFT CARDS
CASH PRIZES
GIFT BASKETS
EVENT TICKETS
AND LOTS MORE!

Proceeds benefit equipment upgrades and operational costs.

Any prizes not claimed within 30 days are considered forfeited.

Made with PosterMyWall.com

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

SENIOR BINGO



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2/3, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John’s Church
2/10, 11:00 am	DI-C Fire Dept. Oyster Sandwich Sale
2/15, 9:00 am	Jump Rope for Heart at Deal Island School
2/17, 10 am-1 pm	Resin Charcuterie Board Workshop at Rock Creek Church
2/17, 4 pm-6 pm	Senior Spaghetti Dinner at DI-C Fire Dept., doors open at 4
2/24, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Auxiliary Breakfast at Fire Department
2/29, 12 pm-2 pm	Maryland Food Bank Mobile Market at DI-C Fire Dept.
3/2, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John’s Church
3/2, 10 am-1 pm	Charcuterie Board Making Workshop at Rock Creek Church
3/16, 5:00 pm	DI-C Fire Dept. Virtual Quarter Auction on Facebook Live
3/23, 10:00 am	Easter Egg Hunt at St. John’s Church (rain date 3/30)
3/30, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Auxiliary Breakfast at Fire Department
3/31, 7:00 am	Free Easter Buffet after Sunrise Service at DI-C Fire Dept.
4/6, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John’s Church
4/13, 10:00 am- 1:00 pm	Driftwood painting workshop (visit socoarts.org)
4/27, 7 am-10 am	DI-C Auxiliary Breakfast at Fire Department

