

SKIPJACK COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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CULTURE CORNER

JACK WILLING SR.
MASTER OF MANY TRADES
BY CHRISTINE WEBSTER EVANS

I interviewed Mr. Jack in 2013, and he was so busy at Scott's Cove Marina with customers and phone calls, that the actual interview went on for days. This story was well worth the focus on a man that the community loves and respects. I will begin with parts of Mr. Jack's jobs and how he became such a gifted carpenter, but first I want to give some history.



Jack married Barbara Ford in 1960. Jack was 20 and Barbara was 18. The marriage lasted 50 years, and sadly Barbara passed away in 2010. Jack

attended Rock Creek Church all of his life. He was the Sunday School treasurer for many years and was a faithful Christian. You will read about his commitment to the Deal Island/ Chance Lions Club of which he was a

member 60+ years and was the treasurer for 30+ years. He was a blessing to the community.

Mr. Jack's contributions seem endless. He is best known for his work in the Scott's Cove Marina and for his endeavors to get the Skipjack Museum established. Jack financed and purchased the land where the

Museum stands today.



The watermen needed the railway at the Marina to repair their Skipjacks. Many wanted to refurbish their Skipjack, saving

her from Davy Jones Locker (only a few will understand that phrase)! Mr. Jack was a major contributor in helping the watermen get their supplies. But this is just one small service that he provided for the community!

Mr. Jack joined the Deal Island/ Chance Lions Club the same year that his dad, Eldon Willing Sr. was the President. (The Lions Club was organized in 1952, according to records I found, Mr. Eldon Willing Sr. was president in 1966). So, there were many years of Mr. Jack's commitment.

The Blood Bank of the Eastern Shore had begun and Mr. Jack got 200+ names to donate. This was a community service of the Lions Club. Another amazing community service was getting a doctor for the communities. I mean who would come to a small town and give his knowledge to others? So, an ad was placed in the AMA and a veteran by the name of Dr. Everett Sutter responded and served the communities for 40+ years. He was a Godsend and will be forever missed.

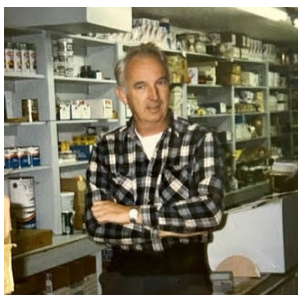
Jack was also involved with getting lights on the fields on Deal Island School so the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts could play games at night. This was in the late 90's.

Jack's daughter Cindy told me that he drove the school bus for 40 years. I guess kids were less likely to have weapons and have fist fights back then. Can you imagine that stress?

One of Mr. Jack's largest accomplishments was his dedication to the establishment of the Skipjack Museum. When I interviewed him in 2013, he told me that this endeavor of which he initially was the chairman, was an ongoing 40-year project with many set-backs.

As the Skipjack Heritage stayed a dream, Jack and the Lions Club had other projects, but only a few came to fruition. One of these projects was work done on the Deal Island Bridge, but the bridge was eventually replaced by the state.

Since the Lion's Club had many different



Presidents, all worthy of accomplishments, I felt it was only fair to move on to Mr. Jack's story. I may save the Lion's Club for

another time.

Jack worked at Chris-Craft in Salisbury, Md, working in the cabin assembly for \$1.60 an hour. He was asked to build a cabin for a 32-foot Sea Skiff, but was given only 80 hours to complete the job. He had some issues as the wood was one inch too long, leaving Jack with no power saw at that time. He had to hand saw the wood and change the pattern so it would fit. (you can see how his developing skills would be a blessing to



the watermen). His third cabin was built in 40 hours.

Jack was given a raise, \$2.75 per hour. Later he was

offered an engineering job that offered him a raise of \$3.50 per hour. He was later made a supervisor and mastered many carpentry skills.

The plant was changing from wood to fiberglass. Jack had to go to school in New Jersey for 6 weeks, returning to Chris-Craft on the weekends. He went to school to learn about fiberglass production.

Jack, in his interview, told me that production wanted 15 houseboats built in a week, including Sundays. Jack was head of production at that time. This work was demanding with time limits and shift work. Jack's health was affected and he paid a visit to Dr. Sutter, who told him to find another job! (A Dr. Sutter diagnosis was rarely wrong). Jack gave two weeks' notice to Chris-Craft and took off 6 months.



As destiny would have its way, Jack would remain in Chance, Md. By then the

Scott's Cove Marina was built and Jack soon

became the man to take over the business. Jack being such a hard worker, began to put in long hours 6 days a week. He helped the watermen with every issue they had. There was a canopy put on the railway where Skipjacks nearing Davy Jones Locker were placed so the ship could be restored. Often it would take years.

These stories do not begin to complete the many jobs of Jack Willing. Mr. Jack has been the Labor Day Race director many times (I recall a day when I was a vendor and had fallen at my aunt's home and hurt my elbow, which was swelling by the time I got to race festivities, I don't know how Mr. Jack knew, but when I looked up, he was standing there with a bag of ice smiling like an Angel)!

He was the President of the Lion's Club in 1973 and 1978, with many duties including filling in where needed. I think of him as the go to man!

I believe that one of the greatest contributions to the community (besides the Skipjack Heritage, which was the hard work of others as well) is the Scott's Cove Marina located in Chance, Md and built in the 70's by Eldon Willing Sr., who was 67 years old at the time! Mr. Eldon Willing Sr., Jack Willing Sr., and later Mr. Eldon Willing Jr. joined the family business, and would be remembered for hand building two workboats a year until the death of Mr. Eldon Sr. in 1979.

The family tradition of building boats continued for a few more years. But in recent years the Marina turned to boat repairing and rebuilding. This change occurred after the



retirement of Mr. Eldon Jr. and the declining health of Mr. Jack. Since wooden workboats are less common today and expensive to build, many watermen have chosen fiberglass over wood. (Marina information came from an article written by Cynthia Willing Anderson, Jack's daughter, entitled Boat Building- A Willing Tradition).



I have tried to keep Mr. Jack's story in some kind of order, but with his early interview and with the passing of time, I may have failed. I did however try to honor Mr. Jack by printing all

his community service, which is undeniably the most consistent service known by the community. I especially remember him on Labor Day, 3 days of dedicated work. One day I walked up to him to ask a few questions and he looked at me with shining blue eyes and said "You are becoming a nuisance". And indeed, I was, trying to get his story for one of my books. I felt like a reporter on a mission.

His daughter Cindy filled in many blank areas. The Jack Willing Sr. family consisted of 3 children. Cindy and her sister Jackie are both teachers. Cindy told me her that her late brother Jack Jr. was an attorney in Somerset County. Jack Sr. is the proud grandfather of 5 children and proud great grandfather of 7 children!

And so, the Willing heritage lives on!

Thanks to Cindy for the photos and much appreciated information. I know she is proud of her dad.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

CHRISTMAS STORY COLLECTION

Christmas is meaningful to many of us and we would like to invite you to share the very best of your Christmas memories with us! We hope to showcase those memories in the December edition of Skipjack Community News.

"And her memories of Christmas, how in those years, the tree was put up on the 24th. Young children only saw the decorated tree on Christmas morning, never before, all part of the magic of the celebration. And always an angel on the top of the tree. Everybody came to the house to celebrate and everyone had a good time."...Alverda Hoffman

You can email your favorite memories to skipjackcommunitynews@gmail.com. Put pen to paper and share your favorites in writing or simply call Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 by November 26th. Pictures would be a plus.



HOLIDAY ORNAMENT SALE

The 2nd Annual Ornament of the Home of the Skipjacks series featuring St. John's Church will be available for purchase (\$25 each) at the following locations:

DI-C Fire Dept. Auxiliary Bazaar-11/11
Soap Making Class at St. John's Church-11/14

Skipjack Heritage Museum- during Saturday operating hours

You can also reach out to Carrie Day at 443-614-9926 or by email at diclions58@gmail.com. Ornaments can be shipped priority mail for \$10.00.



DECEMBER CALENDAR RAFFLE

The Deal Island-Chance Lions Club's "Christmas Season Raffle" will begin on Thanksgiving Day, November 23 and a drawing will be held daily through New Year's Day, January 1. The prize calendar will be posted on the Lions Club's Facebook page on Friday, November 3 at 4:00 p.m. Raffle ticket sales will open at that time. 1,000 tickets will be sold, \$10 per ticket, (10) tickets max per person. Calendar donor's tickets are guaranteed. All drawings will be held live on Facebook. Thank you for your support and we appreciate your love for Christmas and for our community!



WIDOWS/WIDOWERS HAM &FRUIT BASKETS

In preparation of our annual distribution of Ham & Fruit Baskets for our community's widows/widowers, the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club is updating their distribution list. If you personally are a widow/widower or you are aware of a widow/widower and would like to ensure the person is on the distribution list, please reach out to Roy Ford at 410-422-0339 or diclions58@gmail.com with a name and address. It is the intent of the Deal Island-Chance Lions Club that all widows and widowers in our community are included.



ISLAND CHRISTMAS

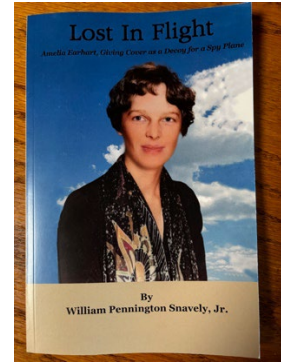
Please join us for our annual "Island Christmas"! This free event at Deal Island Harbor will be December 2nd. Inclement weather date is December 9th.

The event will start at 5:00 p.m. with crafts for the kids, visits with Santa, and lots more for the whole family! Tree lighting will be held at 5:30 p.m. There will be a small seating area provided for those who cannot stand during the event. This is a community-sponsored event for the young and young-at-heart! Without our volunteers and your support, this would not be possible. We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any suggestions or need any further information, please contact Tracy Horner at jennsmoma@yahoo.com.



NEW BOOK

Bill Snavelly's new book "Lost in Flight" about Amelia Earhart is available for purchase at the Skipjack Heritage Museum. \$35.



HOLIDAY BAZAARS

Saturday, Nov. 11th, 8 am-1 pm at Deal Island-Chance Fire House. There will be food (breakfast and lunch), baked goods, and lots of vendors to allow you to get your Christmas shopping done early. Quilt raffle tickets are only \$10 and the quilt will be raffled off that day!

Saturday, Nov. 18th, 8 am-3 pm at Chance Church of God. There will be vendors, a silent auction, and lots of yummy food!



OYSTER SHELL ORNAMENTS

In partnership with the Somerset County Arts Council, our community is creating Oyster Shell ornaments to be displayed on a tree at the Teackle Mansion during the holiday season. The ornaments can be painted, decoupage, beaded - decorated any way you want!

Students at Deal Island School will be participating under the guidance of Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Messick but anyone in the community is welcome to participate!

If you would like to have an ornament or two to decorate, please reach out to Roxanne Dale at 410-202-9940. She will deliver your ornament(s) but you must have it ready to pick up/drop off no later than Saturday, November 18.

We look forward to seeing your creative side!



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST

The annual Christmas Lights Contest sponsored by the DI-C Lions Club will be held on Monday, 12/18, 5:30-7:15pm. There will be two winners (1st and 2nd) in each community - Wenona, Deal Island, Chance and Dames Quarter. 1st = \$100, 2nd = \$75. Judging will be conducted by the 5th grade class of Deal Island School. If you live in an area hard for a school bus to visit, please email a picture of your decorated home, along with your name and address, to diclions58@gmail.com before Thursday, December 14 and it will be included in the contest.



THANKSGIVING MEAL

Community Thanksgiving Dinner
November 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
FREE at DI-C Volunteer Fire Department

Due to all the love and support shown to the Skipjack Run, all the needed turkeys, hams, oysters, potatoes, non-perishables and other supplies will be provided!! We just need your special side dishes and desserts as well as helping hands (before, during & after the event). If you would like to sign up to provide a side dish, dessert, do delivery, or to volunteer, please contact Dawn Whitelock at whitelock.dawn@gmail.com, message her on Facebook, or call 410-251-7787.





4-H SEWING AT ROCK CREEK CHURCH IN DEAL ISLAND/CHANCE!

For all 4-H youth members ages 8 to 18 (Younger ones welcome with a parent helper) – which is only \$10 per year! Register to be a member at v2.4honline.com

JOIN US ON THESE DATES:

6 pm on Thursday, September 7th

6 pm on Thursday, October 19th

6 pm on Thursday, November 2nd

6pm on Thursday, December 7th

Contact Jennifer Howell at jhowell@umd.edu or 410-651-1350 for more information. Adults are welcome to participate so that they can learn and help the youth.



LEARN TO USE A SEWING MACHINE!

MAKE AND TAKE HOME YOUR OWN SEWING CRAFT

MEET NEW FRIENDS!

LEARN ABOUT OTHER 4-H YOUTH ACTIVITIES

University programs, activities, and facilities are available to all without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or any other protected class.

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in any event or activity, please contact 410-651-1350 at least two weeks before the event.

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



READING BUDDIES WANTED

Deal Island Elementary School is actively looking for Reading Buddies to participate in the Read to Succeed program. A “Reading Buddy” meets one day a week for 30 minutes with a child who reads a book to you to help them improve their reading skills and reach their appropriate reading level. If you are interested in participating, contact Lois Hartstein at loishartstein@gmail.com.



SNOWMAN PAINTING WORKSHOP



HARVEST FESTIVAL



SKIPJACK HERITAGE DAY





November Soap Making



November 14, 2023
5p-8p

\$10 PER PARTICIPANT

Deal Island-Chance
Lions Club



St. John's United Methodist
9883 Deal Island Road
Deal Island, Maryland

PLEASE SIGN UP AT
SOCOARTS.ORG



Seaglass Christmas Trees
WITH MISSY

DECEMBER 8TH, 2023
6P-9PM

DECEMBER 9TH, 2023
10AM-1PM

ROCK CREEK CHURCH
28580 DEAL ISLAND ROAD
CHANCE, MARYLAND

Please sign up at socoarts.org \$30 per participant

IF YOU NEED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE,
PLEASE CONTACT
SKIPJACKCOMMUNITYNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Deal Island-Chance
Lions Club

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11/2, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
11/2, 6 pm	4-H Sewing at Rock Creek Church
11/11, 8 am-1 pm	Auxiliary Fire Department Holiday Bazaar
11/13, 5 pm-8 pm	Cookie Decorating Workshop at St. John's Church-FULL
11/14, 5 pm-8 pm	Christmas Soap Making Workshop at St. John's Church
11/18, 8 am-3pm	Chance Church of God Holiday Bazaar
11/18	Oyster shell ornaments due
11/23, 2 pm-4 pm	Community Thanksgiving Dinner- Deal Island-Chance Fire Dept.
11/23	Lions Club Christmas Season Raffle begins: daily thru 1/1/2024
11/25	Miracle of Christmas Lancaster bus trip- FULL
11/26	Memories for Christmas Story Collection due
12/2, 7:30 am-2 pm	Indoor Yard Sale at St. John's Church
12/2, 5 pm	Island Christmas at Deal Island Harbor
12/6	Deal Island Elementary School Christmas Concert at WHS
12/7, 6 pm	4-H Sewing at Rock Creek Church
12/8, 6 pm-9 pm	Sea Glass Christmas Tree Workshop
12/9, 10 am-1 pm	Sea Glass Christmas Tree Workshop
12/13	Somerset AARP trip to Toby's Theater, Columbia, MD-FULL
12/14	Christmas Bazaar at Deal Island Elementary School
12/18, 5:30 pm- 7:15 pm	Christmas Lights Judging Contest