

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 52**

**BETSELMA Tour Boat Records**

1979 – 2009

1 box  
0.5 linear feet  
Accession No. LB2017.23

**Stephen Phillips Memorial Library**

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## PMM 52

### BETSELMA Tour Boat Records

**BETSELMA** (boat)

Records, 1979-2009

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Scallop boat built in Camden, Maine, later used for tours and excursions.

This collection contains 31 daybooks from the tour boat BETSELMA. Kept by captain and owner Leslie Bex, these contain notes on passenger numbers, income, fuel purchases, repairs, and other vessel operations while the BETSELMA was carrying passengers on sightseeing trips from Camden, Maine. The collection contains a complete record of 31 years of operations.

In English.

Ben Fuller; Gift; 2017; LB2017.23

Finding aid available.

**Subject Headings:**

BETSELMA (boat)

Bex, Leslie E., 1937-2019

Camden (ME)

Excursion boats

Marine engines

Ships--Maintenance & Repair

Tourism

**Acquisition:**

This collection was given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by Ben Fuller in 2017.

**Restrictions:**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

**Condition:**

The collection has a slight moldy smell, but otherwise is in good condition. Some light wear on the volumes, but bindings are firm and text blocks are legible. No mold growth is visible.

**Processing Note:**

As of 2020, all inclusions have been left in place, regardless of media.

### **Related Materials:**

Penobscot Marine Museum also has a poster, bumper sticker, and brochure advertising cruises on the BETSELMA, LB2017.23.1-2.

### **Historical Note:**

BETSELMA was built in Camden, Maine, in 1945 for R. Wooster of Rockland. For the next 25 years, Wooster operated the 30-foot diesel-powered vessel as a commercial scallop boat from Rockland, Maine. In the early 1970s, Wooster sold BETSELMA to Frederick E. Bell of Rockland, who converted the vessel for the passenger trade. In 1979 Leslie E. (Les) Bex of Camden, Maine, purchased BETSELMA from Bell and continued the excursion business.

With Bex, the BETSELMA carried passengers on one- to four-hour-long cruises out of Camden during the summer tourist season. Bex provided narrated tours of Camden harbor and the nearby islands and coastline for his passengers.

In 2012, Bex sold BETSELMA to Camden Harbor Cruises. BETSELMA continued to carry passengers for several years, but has since been sold for private use.

### **Scope and Content:**

This collection contains 31 daybooks kept by Les Bex, documenting the BETSELMA's daily operations from 1979 to 2009. Regular entries record the time of each trip, the number of passengers aboard, money earned, fuel expended, routine maintenance of the 130-horsepower diesel engine, and repairs to engines and hull. Most notations are brief, but occasionally include comments on weather, maintenance issues, or variations in BETSELMA's schedule. The records start with the first trip of the season, usually in late June, and end with the last trip of the year, usually in September. In later daybooks, Bex sometimes included a note at the beginning about that year's winter maintenance, Bex's family, and his thoughts on the season ahead.

Some of the daybooks have loose documents tucked into the front cover. These include occasional bills, photographs, notes, directives from US Coast Guard inspections, and ephemera from Camden's sailing fleet.

### **Box and Folder List**

Box	Volume	
1	1	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1979
	2	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1980
	3	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1981
	4	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1982
	5	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1983
	6	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1984
	7	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1985
	8	Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1986

- 9 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1987
- 10 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1988
- 11 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1989
- 12 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1990
- 13 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1991
- 14 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1992
- 15 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1993
- 16 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1994
- 17 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1995
- 18 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1996
- 19 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1997
- 20 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1998
- 21 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 1999
- 22 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2000
- 23 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2001
- 24 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2002
- 25 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2003
- 26 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2004
- 27 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2005
- 28 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2006
- 29 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2007
- 30 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2008
- 31 Operating daybook, BETSELMA, 2009