

# PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection

**PMM 25**

**Clifford N. Carver Whaling Records**

1933 - 1959

22 boxes  
12 linear feet  
Accession No. 1983.3

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## PMM 25

# Clifford N. Carver Whaling Records

### **Carver, Clifford N., 1890-1965**

Records, 1933-1953; bulk 1937-1940

22 boxes (12 linear feet)

Businessman involved in two twentieth century whaling firms.

Business records from the American Whaling Company, Western Operating Corporation, and Western Chartering Company, all whaling and shipping firms run by Clifford N. Carver. The bulk of the records are from the Western Operating Corp., a whaling company, and include detailed log books, whale catch reports, crew lists, and accounts from the whaling factory ship ULYSSES, operated by the firm in the late 1930s, as well as minute books, accounts, and licenses from the firm's office in New York. Cargo ship operations are represented by the Western Chartering Co., which owned the ship JANUS under the Panamanian flag. The collection also contains whaling trade publications and newspaper clippings collected by Clifford N. Carver.

In English and Norwegian

Organized in four series: Series I. American Whaling Company; Series II. Western Operating Corporation; Series III. Western Chartering Company; Series IV. Clippings and Trade Publications

Clifford N. Carver; Gift; c. 1952. John A. Carver; Gift; 1983; LB1983.3

Finding aid available; folder level control

### **Subject Headings:**

American Whaling Company

Western Operating Corporation Ltd.

Western Chartering Company Inc. (Panama)

Carver, Clifford N. -- (Clifford Nickels), -- 1890-1965.

ULYSSES (Whaling factory ship)

FRANGO (Whaling factory ship)

JANUS (Ship)

Shipping

Whaling.

Whaling -- Australia.

Whaling ships.

Whalers (Persons) -- Norway.

Voyages and travels.

Whalers (Persons)

Australia.

Norway.

### **Acquisition:**

Parts of this collection were donated directly by Clifford N. Carver, who was one of the founders of the Penobscot Marine Museum. The bulk of this collection was given by Carver's son, John A. H. Carver, in 1983.

### **Restrictions**

This collection is open for research. There are no special restrictions.

**Condition:**

The collection is mostly in good condition. Most books and documents show wear related to use and age; some are stained or torn at the edges.

**Related Materials:**

PMM 5, the American Whaling Company Films, contains video footage of operations aboard the FRANGO in 1938 and 1939, as prepared for television. Penobscot Marine Museum also owns a painting and model of the whaling vessel ULYSSES, contemporary to these documents.

**Historical Note:**

Clifford N. Carver (1890-1965) was a New York businessman descended from a seafaring family of Searsport, Maine. He was active in the shipping industry, and involved with the two American whaling firms active in the 1930s.

The American Whaling Company was formed in 1930 to send whaling expeditions to the Antarctic whaling grounds. Clifford N. Carver was an officer in the firm. The company owned the whaling factory ship FRANGO, which operated with crews of Norwegian whalers. The FRANGO made its first trip in the winter of 1930; its second trip, in 1936, was delayed due to slow demand during the Great Depression, but the FRANGO then sailed regularly until 1939.

The Western Operating Corporation Ltd. was registered as an American whaling company in December 1936. Clifford N. Carver eventually served as the company's president. The corporation converted the tanker ULYSSES, a tanker built in Baltimore in 1915, to a whaling factory ship. Like the FRANGO, the ULYSSES operated in the Antarctic, off the coast of Western Australia, with a Norwegian crew and a fleet of Norwegian catcher boats. Whale oil from the ULYSSES was loaded into smaller tankers mid-cruise and sent to American and European markets.

The Western Operating Corporation ceased whaling before the Second World War, but remained incorporated until the early 1950s. The ULYSSES was refitted as a tanker and chartered to carry oil to ports in the Americas. After World War II, the directors of the Western Operating Corp. founded a new company to continue the chartering business, named the Western Chartering Company. The new company owned at least one ship, the JANUS, which operated under the Panamanian flag. The Western Chartering Company dissolved about 1953.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection contains records from the Western Operating Corporation, the American Whaling Company, and the Western Chartering Company, as well as clippings and trade publications reflecting Clifford N. Carver's interests in the twentieth century whaling industry. The bulk of the collection is from the Western Operating Corporation, in Series II.

Series I. American Whaling Company contains two items: licenses from the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries for the FRANGO and her fleet of catcher boats; and an album of photos by Morris Douglas Miller of whaling operations on the FRANGO during the 1938 season. The latter is likely a companion to the video footage of the American Whaling Company in PMM 5.

Series II. Western Operating Corporation makes up the bulk of the collection. The series contains detailed corporate records, including the articles of incorporation, minutes, account books, purchase contracts, and licenses for the company's active years in the whaling industry and into the early 1950s. There are also extensive records from the factory ship ULYSSES, including blueprints of the vessel, deck log books, records of whales caught and processed, accounts with each crew member, lists of gear and provisions, and insurance claims. Some of this material is in Norwegian, the language of the ULYSSES's captain and crews, but reports sent to American owners and regulators are in English.

Series III, Western Chartering Company, contains business records from this company from its organization in 1946 to its dissolution less than a decade later. Records include by-laws; minutes; accounts, including money exchanged with the Western Operating Corp.; and purchase and mortgage documents for the ship JANUS. The movements of the JANUS are not recorded; instead, this series is a legal and financial record of an American shipping firm operating under a flag of convenience in Panama.

Series IV, Clippings and Trade Publications, contains material about the twentieth century whaling industry collected by Clifford N. Carver. Material in this series reflects Carver's concerns as a businessman: treaties, tariffs, and oil markets and well represented in the articles and publications collected. There are also contemporary articles on the American Whaling Company and the Western Operating Corporation, and copies of the *Norwegian Whaling Gazette* from the 1950s.

### **Box and Folder List:**

#### Series I. American Whaling Company

Licenses, U.S. Bureau of Fisheries, FRANGO and catcher boats, 1937  
Photograph album by Morris Douglas Miller, FRANGO, 1938

#### Series II. Western Operating Corporation

##### Charter and Minutes

MS 406-11 Charter, By-Laws, and Minute Book, Western Operating Corp., 1937  
MS 406-9 Minute book, Western Operating Corp.:  
Board of directors, 1937-1938  
Stockholders, 1937-1940  
MS 406-10 Minute book, Western Operating Corp.:  
Board of directors, 1938-1945  
Stockholders, 1940-1943, 1946  
MS 406-39 Minutes and notes, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1938

##### Stocks

MS 406-13 Western Operating Corp. stock certificates, #1-200  
MS 406-14 Western Operating Corp. stock certificates, #201-400  
MS 406-38 Western Operating Corp., stock certificates (blank)  
MS 406-17 Western Operating Corp., stockholder record book #1  
MS 406-18 Western Operating Corp., stockholder record book #2

##### Accounts

MS 406-22 Cash book, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1939  
MS 406-23 Cash book, Western Operating Corp., 1939-1942  
MS 406-25 Cash book, Western Operating Corp., 1941-1947  
MS 406-27 Cash disbursements, Western Operating Corp., 1947-1952  
MS 406-20 Ledger accounts, Western Operating Corp., 1937  
MS 406-21 Ledger accounts, Western Operating Corp., 1938  
MS 406-24 Trial balance book, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1940  
MS 406-19 Accounts payable and receivable, 1939-1949  
MS 406-8 Account book, journal, Western Operating Corp., 1937-1941

- MS 406-7 Account book journal, Western Chartering Co. and Western Operating Co., 1941-1951
- MS 406-26 Summary of disbursements, Antarctic Expedition #1, 1937-1939
- MS 406-27 Summary of disbursements, Antarctic Expedition #2, 1939  
Cash disbursements, 1947-1952
- MS 406-41 Correspondence and accounts with Anders Jahre, Norway, 1940-1944
- MS 406-41 1945-1949
- MS 406-36 Domestic Whale Oil Contract, Proctor & Gamble, 1938
- MS 406-37 Correspondence and accounts, charter of CHARLES RACINE to deliver whale oil, 1937-1938
- MS 403-38 Statement of General Average, BELLO, for damage and interruption due to war, 1940

Licenses

- MS 403-16 Licenses, U.S. Government, for the Western Operating Corp (copies):  
Licenses for the taking and processing of whales, 1937-1938  
Radio license, 1937  
Certificate of enrollment, ULYSSES, 1941
- MS 403-5 Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., January 1937
- MS 403-6 Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., April 1937
- MS 403-37 Agreement between the Radiomarine Corporation of America and the Western Operating Corp., July 1939

ULYSSES:

Blueprints:

- MS 403-1 to 4 Blueprints, whaling factory ship ULYSSES, c. 1934

Log Books

- MS 403-7 Office log book, ULYSSES, 1937-1940
- MS 403-45 Office log book, ULYSSES, 1941-1942
- MS 418-C Deck log book, ULYSSES, May 26, 1937 – October 22, 1937
- MS 418-D Deck log book, ULYSSES, October 23, 1937 – February 1, 1938
- MS 418-L Deck log book, ULYSSES, February 2 – April 16, 1938
- MS 418-K Deck log book, ULYSSES, April 17, 1938 – January 27, 1939
- MS 418-P Deck log book, ULYSSES, January, 28 – April 30, 1939
- MS 418-O Deck log book, ULYSSES, May 1 – October 1, 1939
- MS 403-30 Deck log book (smooth), ULYSSES, November 1, 1939-April 28, 1940
- MS 403-50 Chief Officer's log book, ULYSSES, January – April 1941
- MS 403-51 Chief Officer's log book, ULYSSES, July – October 1941
- MS 403-52 Chief Officer's log book, ULYSSES, October 1941 – January 1942 (2 copies)
- MS 403-54 Chief Officer's log book, ULYSSES, January – April 1942 (2 copies)
- MS 418-B Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, September 19, 1933 – February 26, 1934
- MS 418-E Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, June 11 – August 12, 1937

MS 418-F Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, August 13 – October 9, 1937  
 MS 418-G Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, October 9 – November 30, 1937  
 MS 418-H Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, November 31, 1937 – January 31, 1938  
 MS 418-I Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, February 1 – March 31, 1938  
 MS 418-J Chief Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, April 1 – 16, 1938  
 MS 403-46 Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, January 23 – April 20, 1941  
 MS 403-57 Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, April 21 – October 22, 1941  
 MS 403-58 Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, October 32, 1941 – January 22, 1942  
 MS 403-59 Engineer's log book, ULYSSES, January 26 – March 11, 1942  
 MS 403-44 Bell Book, engine room commands, Curacao, March 1941  
 MS 403-56 Bell Book, engine room commands, March 1941

MS 418-N Radio log, ULYSSES, November 28, 1938 – February 6, 1939  
 MS 418-M Radio log, ULYSSES, February 7 – March 8, 1939, and May 1939

#### Catch Logs

MS 403-24 Daily whale catch log, ULYSSES, 1937 season  
 MS 403-25 Journal [whale processing], ULYSSES, 1937 season  
 MS 403-26 Tank journal, ULYSSES, 1937 season

MS 403-21 Daily whale catch log, ULYSSES, 1938 season  
 MS 403-28 Oil processing journal (kokerijournal), 1938

MS 403-33e Catch journal, 1939 season  
 MS 403-33b Catch log, kill boats, 1939 season  
 MS 403-33f Catch log, boat KOS 4, 1939 season  
 MS 403-33c Oil processing journal (kokerijournal), 1939 season  
 MS 403-33d Tank journal, 1939 season  
 MS 403-33a Journal, Violations, 1939 season

MS 403-22 Daily whale catch and operation reports, ULYSSES, 1938 and 1939 seasons  
 MS 403-23 Weekly whale catch reports, ULYSSES, 1939 SEASON  
 MS 403-20a Whaling catch reports, ULYSSES, 1939 season, tabulated for the Norwegian Committee for Whale Statistics  
 MS 403-20b "International Whaling Statistics" nos. 8, 9, 11, and 12 (1937-1939), edited by the Committee for Whaling Statistics, Oslo  
 MS 403-32 Daily catch log-books and International Whale Statistics report sheets, 1939, blank

#### Accounts and Wages

MS 403-11 Inventory of stores and provisions on board whaler ULYSSES at the end of the 1937 season  
 MS 403-35 Lists of stores and repairs, ULYSSES and kill boats, 1940 season  
 MS 403-36 Account book, postage (Porto), 1939 season

MS 403-10 Crew wages, Australian season, 1937  
 MS 403-13 Crew wages, Antarctic season, 1937  
 MS 403-12 Crew's Final Accounts, 1937 season  
 MS 403-14 Crew wages, 1938 season  
 MS 403-15 Crew bonuses, 1938 season  
 MS 403-27 Slop accounts, 1938 season

- MS 403-31 Crew list, ULYSSES and killer boats, 1939 season
- MS 403-34 Crew agreements, ULYSSES and killer boats, 1939 season
- MS 403-41 Official log-book, crew list and records, 1939 season
- MS 403-43 Crew wages, book III, 1939 season
- MS 403-29 Crew accounts, 1939 season
- MS 403-18 Slop accounts, 1939 season
- MS 406-42 Correspondence about crew wages and payment, 1939-1940

Insurance Claims

- MS 403-8 Statement of Particular Average, ULYSSES, February 1937
- MS 403-9 Survey report for damage incurred on voyage, ULYSSES, February 1937
- MS 403-19 Insurance claim, loss of fuel oil, ULYSSES, 1939
- MS 403-40 Statement of General Average, ULYSSES, grounding in Mississippi River, April 1940
- MS 403-42 Statement of General and Particular Average, ULYSSES, 1939-1940 season
- MS 403-60 Statement of General and Particular Average, adjusted, ULYSSES, 1939-1940 season
- MS 403-39 Survey report for damage incurred on voyage, ULYSSES, May 1940
- MS 403-48 Statement of General and Particular Average, ULYSSES, stranding at Curacao, March 1941

Series III. Western Chartering Company

- MS 406-1 Charter, By-Laws, and Minute Book, Western Chartering Co., 1947-1953
- MS 406-15 Western Chartering Co., stockholder record book #1
- MS 406-16 Western Chartering Co., stockholder record book #2
- MS 406-7 Account book journal, Western Chartering Co. and Western Operating Co., 1941-1951
- MS 406-33 Construction certificate, M/T JANUS, 1947
- MS 406-30 Assignment of mortgage, M/T JANUS, Western Operating Corp. to Chemical Bank and Trust, November 14 1947
- MS 406-34 Assignment of mortgage, Panama, M/T JANUS, Western Chartering Co. to Western Operating Corp., December 22, 1947
- MS 406-35 Assignment of mortgage, Panama, M/T JANUS, Western Operating Corp. to Chemical Bank and Trust, February 12, 1948
- MS 406-29 Letter acknowledging receipt of mortgage, M/T JANUS, 1948
- MS 406-28 Mortgage, M/T JANUS, 1949
- MS 406-31 Promissory note, M/T JANUS, 1949
- MS 406-32 Bill of sale, M/T JANUS, to Petrotankers, 1949

Series IV. Clippings and Trade Publications

Industry and Policy

- “Interchangeability of Oils and Fats.” Report of the American Farm Bureau Federation, 1930
- “Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils: Production, Consumption, Imports, Exports and Stocks,” 1934



“Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils: Production, Consumption, Imports, Exports and Stocks,” 1936

Whaling Treaty Act, Hearings before the Committee on Foreign Affairs, House of Representatives, February-March 1936

International Agreement for the Regulation of Whaling, message from the President of the United States, July 31, 1937

Treaty for the Regulation of Whaling. Signed London, June 18, 1937; Proclaimed May 18, 1938

Association of Whaling Companies, “Annual report, account and balance sheet, 1938”

MS 403-61 Folder of reports and statistics presented at the International Whaling Conference, Washington D.C., 1946  
*Norsk Avfangst-Tidende* (The Norwegian Whaling Gazette), 1954; 1958-1959

#### Clippings

MS 403-17 Radio script, “Radio & Whaling” by A.D. Andreasson, about the ULYSSES, 1939

MS 403-63a Newspaper clippings, whaling ships and whaling industry, c. 1938-1939

MS 418-A Scrapbook on whaling policy and industry, c. 1939

MS 403-63b Scrapbook, news clippings on whaling industry, c. 1939, volume 1

MS 403-63c Volume 2

Loose clippings, whaling policy and industry, c. 1930-1952

Clippings, oversize, 1938-1952

MS 403-64 Scrapbook, schooner DOLLY MADISON, 1920; “The Belgian Shiplover,” 1957, and Recognition Silhouettes, U.S. Navy, 1941

#### Blank:

MS 406-3 Tablet of summary account sheets, schooner voyages, Palmer Fleet, Boston, c. 1905

MS 406-4 Official Log-book, Mercantile Marine of the United States,

MS 406-5 Steamship Deck Log Book, three months, S.S. OVERBROOK (blank, some pages cut out)

MS 406-6 Steamship Deck Log Book, three months