

PENOBSCOT MARINE MUSEUM

Inventory for
Manuscript Collection

PMM 7

Bass Harbor Boat Corporation Records

1941-1995

2 boxes and 12 volumes
2 linear feet
Accession No. 1996.464

Stephen Phillips Memorial Library

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PMM 7

Bass Harbor Boat Corporation Records

Bass Harbor Boat Corporation

Records, 1941-1995

2 boxes plus 12 volumes (4 linear feet)

Boatbuilding shop in Bernard, Maine, owned by Robert F. and Robert C. Rich

Ledgers, sketches, blueprints, specifications, materials accounts, labor records, and other boat construction records from the Bass Harbor Boat Corporation, which produced lobster boats, motor cruisers, and other small craft on Mount Desert Island in the second half of the twentieth century. The collection also contains records for boat repairs and dockage in Bass Harbor.

In English

Robert C. Rich; Gift; 1996; 1996.464

Finding aid available; folder level control

Subject Headings:

Rich, Robert F., 1915-1940

Rich, Robert C., 1940-

Boatbuilding -- Maine -- Bass Harbor.

Boatyards -- Maine -- Bass Harbor.

Boating industry -- Maine -- Bass Harbor.

Docks -- Maine -- Bass Harbor.

Boats and boating -- Specifications.

Boats and boating -- Maintenance and repair.

Boatbuilding.

Boatbuilders.

Boating industry.

Boats and boating.

Boatyards.

Docks.

Lobster industry.

Maine -- Bass Harbor.

Acquisition:

The records of the Bass Harbor Boat Corporation were given to the Penobscot Marine Museum by the boat shop's owner, Robert C. Rich, after the shop closed in 1996. The donation included tools, jigs, patterns, and other artifacts from the business in addition to the papers described here.

Restrictions

This collection is open for research. Access to the payroll books (MS 538) is restricted until 2059. There are no special restrictions on reproduction.

Condition:

The collection is mostly in good condition. Some metal fasteners remain in place, and these may begin to degrade.

Processing Note:

Construction files and plans are arranged by contract number. This usually corresponds to chronological order, but there are some inconsistencies. Ledgers and account books are arranged chronologically.

Related Materials:

Some 338 plans from the Bass Harbor Boat Corp. were part of this gift, as well as boatbuilding tools, jigs, patterns, and other artifacts from the shop (1996.28).

Historical Note:

The Bass Harbor Boat Corporation was a boatbuilding shop in Bass Harbor, Mount Desert Island, Maine. It was founded as the Bass Harbor Boat Shop by Robert F. Rich (1915-1982), a fifth-generation boat builder on the island, about 1939. Rich's son, Robert C. Rich (b. 1940), joined the business on graduating from high school. They primarily built wooden boats, though they began using fiberglass in the late twentieth century. The name was changed to the Bass Harbor Boat Corporation sometime in the 1970s. The business closed in 1995, though Robert C. Rich continued to build occasionally on the site.

The Bass Harbor Boat Corp. produced both commercial and pleasure boats. Lobster boats, built for local lobstermen, formed a significant portion of the boatyard's business; they also produced commercial longliners and swordfish boats. Sport fishermen, cabin cruisers, and launches formed the base of the yard's pleasure-boat business. Bass Harbor Boat also handled occasional contracts for police boats, tugs, a research vessel for the State University of New York, and pulling boats for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound program.

Scope and Content:

The Bass Harbor Boat Collection contains four linear feet of business records from a long-standing commercial and pleasure-boat yard on Mount Desert Island. These include ledgers, letters, labor and materials accounts, contracts, materials lists, photographs, carbon copies of correspondence, magazine and newspaper clippings, sketches, blueprints, design specifications, and supply catalogs. Approximately 137 boatbuilding projects are represented, a few of which were never completed.

The records document boatbuilding projects from 1941 to 1995. Most projects were given contract numbers, which were not strictly chronological until #80 (1955). Most of the contracts have folders in the record boxes as well as references in the ledgers. The ledgers, 1941-1981, are indexed by name. Each page is headed with a name and sometimes a note (particularly in the earliest volume) such as "repairs to Novie Boat," "contract" and "extras on dragger," followed by a list of labor and materials costs for new construction, repairs, spring launching preparations, fall hauling, engine work, moorings, etc. Each volume begins with miscellaneous expenses, and the shop and stock expenses are at end of the volume.

The payroll books contain the Bass Harbor Boat Corporation's employment records from 1976 to 1984. (Access to these is restricted until 2059.) The dock and fuel business is documented in another set of account books, which record accounts by individual and are indexed by name.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1 Contract Files, #80 to #501, 1956-1986 (full list follows)
 Box 2 Contract Files, #2614 to #6186, 1943-1995; proposed contracts

Bound Volumes

MS 536 1 Ledger, 1941-1951
 2 Ledger, 1948-1953
 3 Ledger, 1954-1962
 4 Ledger, 1962-1975
 5 Ledger, 1974-1977
 6 Ledger, 1978-1981
 7 Ledger, 1981
 MS 537 1 Dockage and Gas Accounts, 1976-1978
 2 Dockage and Gas Accounts, 1979-1980
 3 Dockage and Gas Accounts, 1981-1985
 MS 538 1 **RESTRICTED UNTIL 2059** Payroll Book, 1976-1980
 2 **RESTRICTED UNTIL 2059** Payroll Book, 1981-1984

List of Contract Files:

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
80	S.C. Lombardi	1955	32' Lobster Boat	N/A		536(3), p.220		
81	William W. Fidler	1956	40' Pleasure Boat	Blue Jacket	X	536(3), p. 221		
82	Eliot W. Coleman	1956	34' Cabin Cruiser		X	536(3), p. 222		2
83	Dr. David Robinson	1956-57	32' Boat	Jayhawk I	X	536(3), p. 223		
84	Philips Lord	1956	42'			536 (3) p. 224		
85	Malcolm McDuffie					536(3), p. 225		
86	William Pierce	1957	32' Cabin Cruiser		X	536(3), p226		
87	Dr. A. M. Torrey	1957	34' Cabin Cruiser			536(3), p. 227		2
88	Gordon White	1957	Motor Sailer			536(3), p. 228		
89	Sea Cliff Yacht Club	1957	26' Club Tender		X	536(3), p. 231		4
90	Angelo Taborelli	1957	35' Sport Fisherman		X	536(3), p. 232		
91	Dr. De Blois	1958	26'			536(3), p. 233		1
92	Ralph B. Semler	1958	40' Single Screw		X	536(3), p. 235	same as 103 & 147	1

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
93	Pat Foster	1958				536(3), p. 237		
94	Henry Weigel	1958	36'			536(3), p.238		
95	Joe Sullivan	1958	36'		X	536(3), p. 239		
96	Merrill Stanley	1959	28' Lobster Boat		X	536(3), p. 198		
97	Carl Hodgdon	1959	28'			536(3)196-7		
98	George Davis	1959	28'			536(3), p195	See Also 100	
99	Warren Fernald	1959	32'			536(3), p. 192		
100	George Davis	1959	28'			536(3), p. 190&194	see 149	
101	Brinlow Kunreuther	1960	36'			536(3), p. 188 -189		
102	Ted Sherman	1960	32'		X	536(3), p. 187		
103	Frank E. Richardson	1960	40' Cabin cruiser (same as Ralph Semlar)	Tim Tam	X	536(3), p.103-104	same as 92 & 97	
104	H.S. McIntire	1960	40' Party Fishing Boat		X	536(3), p.182-183	same as 108,140.160	3
105	David Thurston	1961	27' Sloop		X	536(3), p.179-180		
106	Sold to Manbil Productions (Price is Right)	1961	18' Tug boat		X	536(3), p.178		
107	Same as 106 ??	1961	18' Tug Boat			536(3), p.178		
108	Fred Staples	1961	40' Lobster Boat	Wind Song	X	536(3), p.177	same as 104,140,160	
109	Elise Hawtin	1961	30' Cabin cruiser		X	536(3), p. 176		1
110	George A. Cluett, Jr.	1962	30' Cabin cruiser (32')		X	536(3), p. 174		2
111	Edward Berndt		57' Motor Sailor		X	536(4)p.1,2,3,		
113	Lloyd Atwood	1963	34' Lobster boat		X	536(4) .p.8-9		1
114	Robert Griffin	1963	44' Work-boat		X	536(4) .p9		2
115	Robert Glass	1963	32' Lobster Boat	Nemesis	X	536(4) .p.11		2
116	Donal L. Staples	1963	37' Lobster boat		X	536(4) .p.13		
117	Raymond Noyes	1963	32' Lobster Boat		X	536(4) .p.14		
118	Butler	1964	26'		X	536(4) .p.17		

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
119	Savage	1964	42'		X	536(4).p18 &19		
120	M.D.C.	1964	32 Patrol Boat			536(4).p.21 &22		4
121	William W.Willock	1964	26' Steam Tug		X	536(4).p23		7
122	Manchester, Ma. Yacht Club	1965	32' Club Tender	Trident	X	536(4).p25	see #115	7
123	Justin E. Witham	1965	39' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p.27		
124	Angela Taborelli	1965	36' Twin screw cruiser (?)		X	536(4).p.28&29		10
125	Willock	1966	28'	Aletta	X	536(4).p.31		3
126	Gallant Inc.	1966	26' Diesel Tug			536(4).p.32-33		4
127	Dr. M.A. Torrey	1966-67	43' Cruiser	Maqrlona		536(4).p.35		13
128	George Lawson	1967	33' Launch		X	536(4).p.		3
129	Carlton Joyce	1967	22'			536(4).p.39		1
130	Leonard Peck	1967	28' Tug Boat		X	536(4).p.40		2
131	Spruce Head Lobster Co.	1968	36' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p.41-42		
132	Frank Fribourg	1968	20' Flat Bottom Surf Boat		X	536(4).p.44		
133	Norman Sarns	1968	32' Motorsailer		X	536(4).p45		2
134	Gordon Robbins	1968	30' Pulling Boat			536(4).p.47		
135	New Rochelle Rowing Club	1969	37' Passenger Launch		X	536(4).p.200		
136	Laurence H. Coffin	1968	27' Cruiser, Atkin design	Hekne	X	536(4).p202		7
137	F. E. Richardson	1969	44' Cruiser		X	536(4).203		10
138	George A. Cluett	1970	34' Cruiser		X	536(4).p.206-207		1
139	W. C. Sargent Jr	1971	35' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p288-289	see145,150,153	4
140	Doug. Mac Quinn	1971	40' Party Boat	Semlar		536(4)p.211	see 104	3
141	Robert Griffin	1971	Hull only			536(4).p.9		
142	Kenneth Davis	1972	22' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p.217		
143	Richard B. Hovey	1972	34' Steam Launch		X	536(4).p218-9		
144	Louise E. Sinkler	1972	35' Bunler Hull			536(4).p.221-222		4
145	John Pettigrove	1973	35' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p223-224	see 139.150.153	
146	John Schmidt	1973	36' Presto ketch sharpy		X	536(4).p.226-227		6

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
147	Donald L. Staples	1974	40' Lobster boat		X	536(4).p.228	same as 92 7103	
148	Robert Griffin	1974	47' x 14'	Wildwood	X	536(4).p.229		3
149	Russell Lawson	1974	32' Lobster boat, Phippen model		X	536(4).p.230	see 100	3
150	George Dow	1975	37' Lobster Boat		X	536(4).p.232-233	see 139,145,153	21
151	Roger F, Rich	1975	36' House Boat		X	536(4).p.234-235		1
152	John McCarty	1976	43' Off shore Cruiser Lane Design #44275		X	536(4).p.236 & 238	Acc in Folder	21
153	Ivan Olson	1976	34' Lobster boat		X	536(4).p.240		
154	Joseph & Jeannie Merkel	1976	43' Cruiser	Rum Runner	X	536(4).p.242	Acc in Folder	6
155	James Hayes	1977	36' Lobster Boat			536(4).p.245		
156	Raymond Noyes	1978	43' Lobster Boat	Daystar	X	536(6)p.200		1
158	Bill Sargent	1979	43' Lobster Boat		X	536(6) p.203		1
159	Kenneth Bloomer	1980	47' Longliner	Barney B	X	536(6) p.205		1
160	William Adler	1980	40' Lobster Boat		X	536(6) p.207		1
161	Raymond Noyes	1981	37' Lobster Boat	Daystar (?)	X	536(6) p.203.		1
162	Robert Griffin / H. Nicholas Hyora	1981	38' x 12' Lobster boat	Wildwood	X	536(6) p.204		1
163	Beal & Bunker	1983	38' Cabin Cruise	Double B	X	536(6) p.205		5
164	Acadia Boat Tours & Charters	1985	33' Excursion	Aunt Elsie	X	Account in Folder		8
165	Antonio Gebauer	1985	33 'Launch	Blue Max	X	Account in Folder		2
274	Finlay B. Matheson	1981	37'		X	Account in Folder		
328	William B. Jerome	1986	32' Newman	Plain Jane	X	See Folder 328		11
329	Robert Weeks	1986-87	32'Sportfisher	Legacy	X	See Folder 329		1
367	George Sawyer	1982	36' Newman	Ellen Marie	X	536(6)p.207		1
373	Walter Rich	1981	37' Boat		X	Account in Folder		
382	Robin Young	1980	38' fiberglass		X			2
385	Leonard Young	1981	38' Lobster Boat	Sea Eagle	X	536(6).p.202		1
386	John C. Pitt ("Jack")	1984	38' Sport fisherman	Blackbird	X	536(6).p.206		2

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
387	William A. M. Burden	1983	38' Power Cruiser		X	536(6).p.202		1
501	, Reg. Thompson	1979	50' Duffy fiberglass	F/V Evangeline	X	536(6).p.210-211		14
2614	Jerry LaPicles	1989	26' Duffy		X			
2812	Bass Harbor Marine	1989	28' Ellis 28		X	Account in Folder	Purchased hull Ellis	
3216	Robert Erskine	1994	Flye Point 32		X			
3217	Doug Knight	1995	Flye Point 32	Magic Carpet	X			
3510	Bass Harbor Marine/Jack Beringer	1987	35' Duffy & Duffy 35	Blue Dolphin	X			1
3511	O. D. Hopkins	1988	35' Duffy & Duffy 35	Skyfair	X			
3513	Bass Harbor Marine	1989	35' Duffy & Duffy 35 (#3)		X			
3515	Bass Harbor Marine/Allen Stern	1992	35' Duffy & Duffy 35	Star Chaser	X	Account in Folder		4
6186	Henry J. Weigil	1959	36'		X			
	Noroton Yacht Club	1961	28' Motor Boat		X			
	Angelo Taborelli	1969	38' Sport fishing boat		X			5
	MDC Parks & Recreation	1973	32' Police Boat	104	X	N/A		
157	Bob Dunbar (built on spec.?)	1979	36' Lobster Boat		X	536((6)p.201		
	O. D. Hopkins Assoc.	1990	8 passenger rafts		X			
Misc.	O. D. Hopkins	1990	Trolley Cars		X			14
3818	Gordon Abbott, Jr.	1995	38 Power Cruiser	Hornpipe	X	N/A		15
Unknown	Hurricane Is. Outward Bound School	1968	(6) 30' Pulling Boats	NA	X	N/A		
Unknown	Joseph Daggett	1954	26'Cruiser (1)	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	George Bertram	1954	26' Cruiser (II)	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	36' Tug	N/A	N/A	N/A		3
Unknown	N/A		55 1/2'Lobster Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		4
Unknown	R.F. Rich	N/A	36' Lobster Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		2
Unknown	N/A	N/A	32' Sport Fish	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	1981	27' Steam Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		2
Unknown	Bath Water District	N/A	24' Utility Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	26-38 Duffy	N/A	N/A	N/A		20
Unknown	Rockliff-Witham	N/A	50' ?	N/A	N/A	N/A		1

CONTRACT NO.	CUSTOMER	YEAR	TYPE OF BOAT	NAME OF BOAT	FOLDER	ACCOUNT BOOK	NOTES	DWGS
Unknown	USN BuShips	1943	24' Personnel mk II	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	Ray Stanley	N/A	40' Lobster Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	24' Speed Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	36' Newman	N/A	N/A	N/A	Basic Neman	1
Unknown	Maine Maritime Acad.	1987	30'- Lobster Boat	N/A	N/A	Preliminary		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	26' Monomoy	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fiberglass	2
Unknown	N/A	N/A	42' Cruiser	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1
Proposed	John T.Costa	1985	42' Sportfisherman	N/A	N/A	N/A	not built	5
Proposed	Alan & Linda Stern	1993	33' Holland Day Boat Cruiser	N/A	N/A	N/A	not built	3
Proposed	State Univ. Of N.Y.	1973	47' Research Vessel	N/A	N/A	N/A	not built	8
Proposed	Frederick B. Breed	1962	52'Sword Fisherman	N/A	N/A	N/A	not built	4
Unknown	N/A	N/A	40' Cruiser	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Unknown	N/A	N/A	34' Cruiser	N/A	N/A	N/A		1
Proposed	MDC	1964	32' Police Boat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Unknown	Unknown	N/A	32' Lobster boat of George Davis design	N/A	N/A	N/A	See 149 of Russell Lawson	