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History of Post-Morrow

The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. is located in the Hamlet of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. Its principal office is at 16 Bay Road, Brookhaven, NY 11719.

Conceived by Thomas and Elisabeth Post Morrow and established in 1969, the Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the rural countryside character of the Hamlet and the surrounding areas. Through the acquisition of properties, either by gift or purchase, the Foundation seeks to establish a nature preserve and sanctuary for the benefit and enjoyment of the immediate community. The preservation of Beaver Dam Creek, where the Foundation owns over 100 acres, is a priority.

The Post and Morrow families have had a long tradition of philanthropy in the community. James H. Post purchased the land along Carmans River, now known as Squassux Landing, which was later donated to the Brookhaven Village Association for use as a marina. The land upon which the Brookhaven Free Library is situated was another gift. Elisabeth Post Morrow continued the tradition of her father by donating various gifts to community groups, mostly anonymously. It was the hope of the Morrows that this legacy be continued through the establishment of the Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

Post-Morrow Foundation NEWSLETTER

volume 3, number 1

May 1999

PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION; SOUTHAVEN PROPERTIES



A view of Southaven Properties (photograph by Martin Van Lith)

The Foundation has worked closely with the US Fish and Wildlife Service over the last year to assist them in securing several "outparcels" adjacent to the Wertheim Wildlife Refuge. Together with the Town of Brookhaven, Brookhaven Village Association, Brookhaven Open Space Council, The Trust for Public Land and Ducks Unlimited, Inc., the Refuge was able to purchase 128 acres on the northern boundary. This parcel had been considered for development and is considered a significant wildlife habitat directly adjacent to the Refuge. The parcel was purchased by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for \$2.3 million primarily from the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund, with the Foundation contributing \$53,000 towards the purchase price. For the acquisition of Southaven Properties the Trust For Public Lands acted as the negotiator with the landowner, owned the property for a short time and then turned it over to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Foundation negotiated the details of the transaction which helped to transfer five smaller outparcels to the Wertheim. Four single and separate lots slated for development along Old Stump Road, and a single lot and house on Montauk Highway were purchased by the Foundation and then transferred to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These five parcels will add a great deal to the integrity of the Refuge. The Foundation is also assisting with the projected sale of the Robinson Duck Farm to the Refuge. The Foundation has secured an appraisal which will hopefully pave the way for the County of Suffolk to sell the property to the Refuge, thus insuring the inclusion of an additional 80 acres which are an important part of the Wertheim Refuge.

The 2500 acre Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge was created in 1947 by the Wertheim family. The Refuge is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to protect Carmans River which serves as a major habitat for migratory waterfowl along the Atlantic Flyway.

"Few sites on the south shore can boast the diversity of habitats found at Southaven. The property was the last remaining unprotected parcel in the southern Carmans River Watershed, and within the scenic portion of the river's corridor designated under the New York State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers Act. The western portion of the site straddles the undisturbed headwaters of Yaphank Creek, a tributary of the Carmans River, and is one of only six Long Island creeks still supporting naturally-spawning populations of native brown trout. ("View Points", Newsletter of the Open Space Council, Fall/Winter '98)



The Foundation has worked over the past several years in partnership with the Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex in restoring a portion of the Beaver Dam Creek to its original marshlands habitat. We are pleased to be a partner with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance the Wertheim Refuge and protect a legacy for generations to come. We would also like to compliment the other players in the struggle to acquire this parcel for the Refuge, especially the Open Space Council and the Brookhaven Village Association.

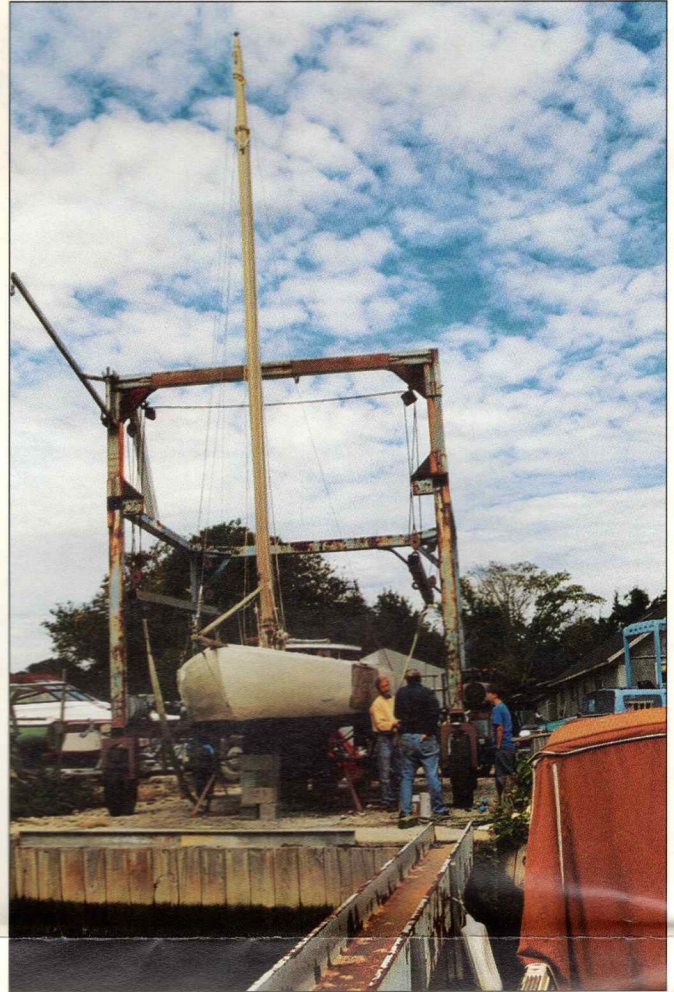
OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

Just this past month, the Foundation has purchased the Fireplace Boatyard on Beaver Dam Creek (sometimes referred to as Gould's Marina) and Tookers Boatyard on the Carmans River. The Fireplace Marina has been in operation since the 1940's for summer dockage for approximately 39 boats. Owned and operated by Mrs. Ruth Gould and Walter Gould before his death, the marina offers a safe haven from the storms on the Great South Bay.

Tookers Boatyard has been owned and operated by Bill Starke for the past 20 years. The Starkes purchased the yard from Dick Tooker who purchased it from Captain Sam Newey who was a well known boatbuilder in Brookhaven. The Newey - Tooker - Starke Boatyard has been in continuous operation for over 100 years.

"Shipbuilding was an important industry all over Long Island until the earliest part of the 20th century, and Brookhaven Hamlet was no exception. One of Long Island's best and most renowned boat builders, Nehemiah Hand, was born in the village of Fireplace in 1814. Brookhaven's own shipyard was run by Captain Sam Newey, who started to build boats in 1900 at the end of Newey Lane" (*The History of Brookhaven Hamlet, once known as Fire Place*, Kathleen L. Scheibel, 1998)

According to Stephanie Bigelow "No doubt the best known Brookhaven shipbuilder was Captain Samuel Newey, who turned out boats of all description from his shipyard near the end of Beaver Dam Road. He started to build boats in 1900. Having sold to the Vacuum Oil Company a 65-foot freighter he had built for himself, he subsequently built them fourteen tankers which went to India and to Africa. He built sloops, yachts, yawls, boats for ferrymen, boats for the oil trade, commercial draggers equipped with heavy



The Boatyard in action. The "Elvira", owned by Robert Starke and built by Gil Smith of Patchogue is in the travel lift for repairs.



A view in winter from the Boatyard (photograph by Ninon Starke)

booms and hoisting gear, and little sailboats for the younger generation who wanted to race.

"In 1924 alone, 54 boats were built in Captain Newey's yard, many of these being of the Shore Bird class for the Westhampton Beach Yacht Squadron. He built the 87-foot Ocean Beach ferry in the 1920's and the same year, the 70-foot *Howard E Harrin*, a party fishing boat. He drew no plans, nor made half models in scale, as Gil Smith did, but just went ahead and built; he always was of the opinion that, 'anyway, no one could see both sides of the boat at once.'

"For the larger boats, when it came launching time, he used house moving equipment, sliding the boats on rails, turning the corner of his lane into Beaver Dam Road, thence into Carmans River, and launching them sideways. When Sam Newey retired in 1948 he sold his yard to Richard Tooker from Moriches. -- At one time Newey Lane was called Eelpot Lane because so many eelpots were made there." (*Bellport and Brookhaven*, pages 67 & 69, Stephanie Bigelow, 1968)

Stanley Grodeski, formerly a boat carpenter with Captain Newey, built boats on Newey Lane and his grandson Philip Shelton built a boat which is currently owned and sailed out of Squassux Landing.

Tookers Boatyard, as it is known today has many tales to tell. When Bill Starke took over the yard 20 years ago he said there was a stall in one of the sheds for a horse that Dick Tooker's daughter had some years before. It was taken out to make way for additional



Line drawing by Ann Wiswall: "Tookers Boatyard"

boat storage. It had to be reinstated for Bill's own daughter's horse who was named White Socks. Her foal, Amelia, was born in the shed and so completed a cycle for the boatyard. Once Bill was working in the yard and someone he did not know drove into the yard and said that the end of Beaver Dam Road was very crowded and could she use the boatyard for a ceremony to honor "Eddie". Bill agreed and thought he knew who Eddie was. So the group came down and had their memorial service and threw Eddie's ashes into the creek. Two days later the Eddie whom Bill thought he knew, appeared in the yard, hale and hearty. So there are an unknown Eddie's ashes memorialized in the boatyard.

Another story which Bill related was told to him by Dick Tooker about a time when he had a boat on the rails of the yard being readied for launching. The owners wanted to install a cabin on the boat but did not want to pay Dick Tooker to do the work. So the next morning two carpenters arrived and started to work on the cabin. Dick Tooker noted that they carefully took out their plumbob to make sure the lines were right as carpenters do. They built a very nice cabin on the boat and went away. Dick Tooker did

not say anything and put the boat in the water. Lo and behold the cabin was indeed very well built but had a very distinct tilt to the side. The carpenters had not calculated whether the boat had been level on the rails.

It is with this maritime tradition in mind that the Foundation is planning to create a community boatbuilding program at Tooker's Boatyard. We have formed a small planning group which is looking at ways in which we can develop the program and involve the community. We have had the pleasure of a visit from Lance Lee who developed the Apprentice Shop in Rockland, Maine and has been the inspiration for the "Atlantic Challenge", which builds youth training vessels called "Bantries". These Bantries are built and sailed by youth from many nations in an international exchange of celebration and friendship. As Mr Lee says; "The boat builds the boy".

According to an article by Ron Richard "My reasons for building boats are pretty similar to everyone else's. I think students respond best to challenges from 'real' life, and there is something concrete, something 'real' in a solid wooden boat. Boat building also deepens students' respect for craftsmanship in general while developing their own personal craft. Working on a boat offers important lessons in problem-solving. Just as important is sustained experience in working together with other people. Finally, boats are a usable, valuable, and even admirable end product." (Teaching Community Boatbuilding, Ron Richards, *Community Boatbuilding Manual*, Wooden Boat Magazine, 1998)

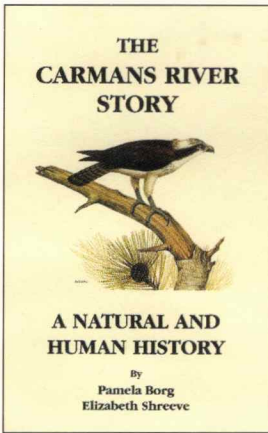
We have also consulted with the Long Island Marine Museum, especially Director Doug Shaw and Trustee Al Terry, as well as Brian Weeks from the Weeks Yachtyard in Patchogue whose family also has a one-hundred year tradition of building boats on the Patchogue River close to Gil Smith, one of the most famous builders from this area.

Our objective is to preserve and promote the maritime history and heritage of Brookhaven Hamlet while providing a variety of educational experiences, primarily for residents of the area with particular emphasis on youth. We would be particularly interested in stories or information about the boatyards and/or any pictures which would help us to complete our history of the maritime heritage of Brookhaven. If anyone has information, please call the Foundation at 286-0686.



The "Montauk", owned by Dennis Puleston and the Binnington family was built on Newey Lane by Philip Shelton and is currently sailed from Squassux Landing.

THE CARMANS RIVER STORY



The cover of the book

The Post-Morrow Foundation is pleased to announce that it has published the second edition of the *Carmans River Story*. On December 29th, the Foundation and the Sou'wester Bookshop hosted a book signing party for the second edition of the *Carmans River Story*, written 25 years ago by Elizabeth Shreeve and Carista Rosen (Pamela Borg).

Originally a project of Students for Environmental Quality at Bellport High School under the direction of Art Cooley, the *Carmans River Story* was instrumental in assisting the effort to establish the Carmans River as a wild, scenic and recreational waterway which helped to preserve the natural habitat of the river.

With new introductions from Dennis Puleston, who has been involved in the protection of the river for over twenty-five years, and Art Cooley, who was a teacher at Bellport High School and advisor to the SEQ, the booklet is now available again for individuals who can enjoy the benefits of this beautiful river.

"For nearly 30 years, SEQ has provided students an opportunity to influence public policy, to participate in democratic processes, and to learn to write and communicate. In learning these skills they have also helped protect our natural world. The success and longevity of SEQ is a wonderful tribute to those young people who have accepted the challenge to fix the environment and, in the process, have demonstrated there are dedicated and knowledgeable students in our high schools." (Art Cooley, introduction to the second edition, 12/98)

Pat Martinkovic, the current refuge manager who, along with number of community groups, added an additional two hundred seventeen acres to the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge (see Southaven Properties in this issue) has also written an afterword which speaks to the importance of the book to the protection of the river and the refuge. She writes; "Together, we can continue the mighty work started by those who went before us so we can pass on to future generations the treasured and rich natural heritage of the Carmans River Estuary".

It is fitting now that the Foundation continues the work of these students which was assisted by a grant from Mrs. Elisabeth Post Morrow twenty-five years ago. Copies of the *Carmans River Story* can be purchased at the Sou'wester Bookshop and the Carmans River Canoe.



From left to right; Lois Etzel, current advisor to SEQ, Dennis Puleston, Art Cooley, author Elizabeth Shreeve and Pat Martinkovic, Wertheim Fish and Wildlife Refuge Manager, Tom Williams and past and present members of Students for Environmental Quality.

THE LITTLE HOUSE ON THE CORNER



The newly renovated house on the corner

The Foundation has purchased the small Cape Cod style house on the corner of Beaver Dam Road and South Country Road. Originally built by the Hollowell family in the 1950's it was owned by them until recently when they decided to sell the property.

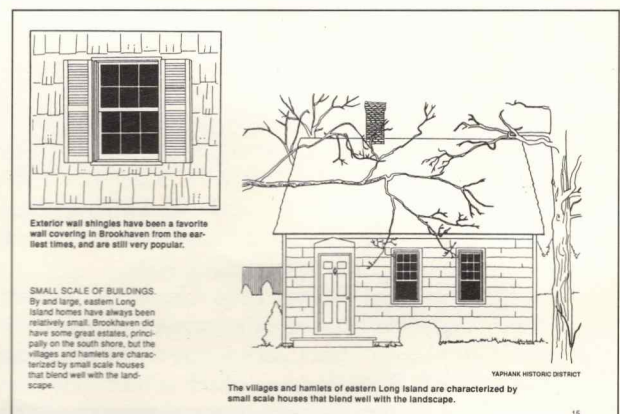
The Foundation has renovated the house in keeping with the intentions of the Historic District ordinance of the Town of Brookhaven. Designated in 1985, the Fireplace Historic District became the sixth and largest Historic District in the Town.

According to the *Procedures and Guidelines For Property Owners in Historic Districts and Transition Zones*, published in 1990 by the Town for property owners in Historic Districts, Historic Districts "are not intended as static museums of the past; they are places where people live, work, and own property. Each District contains diverse architecture from different periods and styles. It is the purpose of Historic District regulations to insure that renovations, additions or new construction are in harmony with surrounding properties but not necessarily built according to one particular period or style." The benefits to the residents of being in an historic district are the "preservation of the overall character and appearance of your neighborhood and the availability of advice from Historic District Advisory Committee and the Town's

Department of Planning, Environment and Development (P.E.D.)."

This project was based on a program developed by the Society for the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities (SPLIA) called the revolving fund. The purposes of the revolving fund as developed by SPLIA was to purchase houses, repair them in accordance to their historic significance and then place them on the market for purchase by private owners who would continue their preservation.

The Foundation used the historic district guidelines to renovate the house to reflect the overall character and architectural traditions of the community. The Foundation will be placing the little house on the corner on the market this spring for purchase by a prospective homeowner who loves the historic aspects of our Brookhaven community.



Exterior wall shingles have been a favorite wall covering in Brookhaven from the earliest times, and are still very popular.

SMALL SCALE OF BUILDINGS. By and large, eastern Long Island homes have always been relatively small. Brookhaven did have some great estates, principally on the south shore, but the villages and hamlets are characterized by small scale houses that blend well with the landscape.

The villages and hamlets of eastern Long Island are characterized by small scale houses that blend well with the landscape.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

The Foundation would like to thank Christian Gabriel for the completion of his Eagle Scout Project on Foundation property. Chris is a Life Scout of Troop #4 of the Sunrise District and has been in scouting since 1992.

The project consisted of the enhancement of the public hiking trail system at the Post-Morrow Foundation property on Bay Road in Brookhaven by the construction and installation of benches along the hiking trail, construction and installation of a kiosk for holding trail maps, and demarcation of the trail. Additionally, signs will be constructed and posted throughout the trail to identify various species of flora. The kiosk has been installed at the beginning of the trail in the parking lot to the south of the Annex at 16 Bay Road.

Chris raised the money for the construction of the benches and kiosk and organized other members of Troop 4 to assist him in the completion of the trail enhancement. Chris will be attending Notre Dame in the fall.

We wish Chris good luck and are pleased to be able to be part of his fine accomplishment in attaining Eagle Scout status.



HEADWATERS OF BEAVER DAM CREEK



(Post-Morrow sign designating this part of the headwaters of the Creek along the tree line as a nature preserve. The area behind the fence has been planted with Little Blue Stem, a native grass of Long Island.)

In an effort to further protect the headwaters of Beaver Dam Creek, the Foundation planted 2500 plugs of Little Blue Stem, a native grass, in the cleared area formerly occupied by the Arnold Bread Store. Recommended by the Cornell Cooperative Extension and supplied by Friars Head Farm in Riverhead, which specializes in native plantings, this native grass should help to restore the depleted soil and bring this area back to its natural state.

The headwaters of Beaver Dam Creek are of particular interest to the Foundation because of its sensitivity to the overall health of the Creek. Beaver Dam Creek is one of the few remaining tributaries to the South Shore Estuary which is relatively unpolluted. We hope to help protect this important waterway, still stocked with brown trout, which enhances the beauty of our hamlet.

IN MEMORIAM

We would like to acknowledge the many friends and family of Dick Stoner who contributed to the Post-Morrow Foundation in his memory. Dick Stoner worked at Brookhaven Laboratory as a chemist and was a long time resident of Brookhaven Hamlet. He loved the rural nature of Brookhaven and this beautiful land on the Great South Bay.

DAFFODILYANA

For the last several years the Foundation has contributed to the Brookhaven Hamlet beautification project *Daffodilyana*. The brainchild of Michael Ince, a Brookhaven artist, *Daffodilyana* was designed to bring the residents of the Hamlet together each fall to plant daffodils along the sides of the streets and lanes of the Hamlet. Over a thousand daffodils have been planted along Beaver Dam Road, Bay Road, Fireplace Neck Road and Old Stump Road. Look for this project in the fall to celebrate the promise of the spring to come.



Daffodils planted in the fall of 1997 in front of the Brookhaven Free Library on Beaver Dam Road.



Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc.

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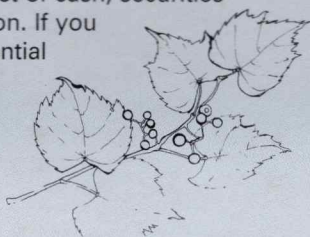
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POSTAL PATRON

The Post-Morrow Foundation Newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Bequest

If you would like to extend your support of the work of the Foundation to preserve our heritage, you may include in your will a bequest of cash, securities or property to the Foundation. If you would like to discuss a potential bequest, please call Bruce Wallace, President at 286-0686.



Thank you for your support

Your contribution is important to us in showing community support and allowing us to preserve the Hamlet. Please return the form below, along with your gift, to: The Post-Morrow Foundation, Inc. We will mail you an acknowledgment for tax purposes.

Other ways to support the Foundation include:

Matching gifts - if your employer has a matching gifts program, your gift to the Foundation can be doubled or tripled. Please check with your employee benefits office.

Memorial gifts- A gift in memory of a loved one or friend is a special tribute to someone who loved Brookhaven Hamlet. We would be happy to notify the family of your charitable gift.

Gifts of land and/or historic material- as described in this newsletter, we welcome gifts which reflect the heritage of our community.

Illustration by Rebecca Sack

Designed and printed by
Searles Graphics, Inc., E. Patchogue, N.Y.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges
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