DEDICATION OF

BOWERS BEACH

MARITIME MUSEUM

North Bowers Beach
State of Delaware



Maritime Museum
Bowers Beach, Del

Bicentennial Year
June 19, 1976

Our Museum Property, as shown on the cover, was originally owned by the Williams Family in Bowers. Mrs. Bertha Williams, many years a widow, lived in this house and later sold it to the Tozour family. Mrs. Tozour, to most persons, known as "Aunt Bess" married Captain Tozour, a boat captain in the area and each of them had a son, namely Harry Yingling and Van Tozour, both of Kent County.

Aunt Bess lived in the house many years after Captain Tozour's death, and was well known for her good cooking. Anyone and everyone was always welcome at her big breakfast table and she always had a smile, a witty statement, and a welcome for all.

Aunt Bess lived in the property until 1974, and she is now residing in Courtland Manor Nursing Home in Dover. She was able to be with us in July of 1974 at our "Big Thursday" celebration. She hated to part with her home, as all of us do when we reach a certain age, but she was delighted to sell her property for a museum, and she realized the deep love she had for her home would live on and be appreciated by many people that would visit the museum throughout the years.

To Aunt Bess we owe a deep appreciation for being able to foresee the fact that many persons would continue to pass through the doors of her home as a museum in the years to come, as they had in the years past, and to learn and appreciate the history of the Delaware Bay Region.

June, 1976

BEST WISHES

MR. AND MRS.

JOE CROSS & FAMILY



Governor
Dover, Delaware

June 15, 1976

The Bowers Beach Maritime Museum Committee
and
The Citizens of the Town of Bowers:

Congratulations on accomplishing the successful establishment of the Bowers Beach Maritime Museum. I can appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into the planning, designing, and implementation of this outstanding Bicentennial project.

The Bowers Beach Bicentennial Maritime Museum is particularly beneficial to the people of the State of Delaware as it will have a residual effect. As you know, many Bicentennial activities come and go, and when they are over, the citizens of Delaware no longer have an opportunity to enjoy these projects. But as far as the Bowers Beach Maritime Museum is concerned, Delawareans, as well as visitors from other states, will be able to enjoy your Bicentennial project for many years to come.

Please accept my sincere commendation for the performance of this outstanding Bicentennial endeavor, and Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

Sherman W. Tribbitt
Governor

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HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT

On a morning in June of 1973 a lady from Bowers Beach, Mrs. Edna LeMunynon came to me in Governor Tribbitt's office where I work, and talked to me about the possibility of having a Maritime Museum in Bowers Beach. I very well knew what she was talking about as I had graduated from St. Michaels High School in Maryland where the Maritime Museum has been such an interesting and successful project. I had a summer cottage in Bowers and had been going to the beach since the early sixties and was interested in the community.

Soon thereafter we began to have meetings at Bowers Beach. After several get togethers, we went to the Mayor and Town Council to obtain their interest, and then Edna LeMunynon, Jane Boone, Coleman Morris, Margaret Shaver and I were officially appointed by the Mayor and Town Council as the Bowers Beach Bicentennial Maritime Museum Committee. We began to dream of owning a property and starting this museum. Our first project was a flea market and rummage sale held at the Bowers Beach Fire House, followed by a bus shopping trip to Reading, Pa. on which we made money. It seemed as we progressed that there was a lot of interest and we began to work toward the "Big Thursday" — Fourth of July affair in 1974. After much hard work, persuasion, etc., we had a great Fourth of July at the Beach and made ourselves a good sum of money.

Later we had Sunday Afternoon tours of Ann Sparklin's home and gardens near Milford. Ann, by the way, is the suthor of "Big Thursday" and "Lilly Jo".

So with hard work, selling chances, and plugging on, we accumulated a little nest egg. By this time funds were growing and it was the Bicentennial year. Federal funds were beginning to come to the state and many projects were being started.

On the 4th of March, 1974, Bowers qualified as a Bicentennial Town. We were the Fourth town or city in Delaware to qualify of which we were mighty proud. Milford, New Castle, and Newark were the only three towns that qualified ahead of Little Old Bowers.

John Mickey, now deceased, the past Director of the Delaware American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, was most interested in our project and helped tremendously. Also we began to pursue Levy Court of Kent County and the Kent County Bicentennial Committee. After many meetings and our presentations to these associations, interest in our project grew.

In July of 1975 we acquired the contract on the "Tozour Property." Maurice Hartnett, III a Dover Attorney, did much to help us with the legal work and to him we are grateful. We now knew our dream was growing and would become true.

Then the renovations began — with Coleman Morris as Chairman of the renovations of the Building, we have arrived at what you see today. Many complications developed, but some way each obstacle was overcome to bring about this Happy occasion. We now have only three of the original members of the Committee left — Margaret Shaver and John Moyer, Jr. are no longer with us.

We have had the help and cooperation of the Bowers Fire Company, the Mayor and Council and the many contributors to the museum, and the people who have helped with dinners and all fund raisers; also the boys and girls of the Town and the Girls 4-H Club of Rising Sun helped us with flower planting.

Without the Bicentennial Committee of Kent County, we could not have achieved this accomplishment, and to everyone in Kent County who helped promote this project, we are certainly indebteded. So to each and everyone who has helped along the way, we say a great big THANK YOU.

It is not our museum, but the museum of the people of Bowers, Kent County, and the State of Delaware. We hope you will continue to help us and enjoy the past, present, and future of the BOWERS BEACH MARITIME MUSEUM and the history and activities of the Delaware Bay Pioneers.

(Helen Byrd Achtenberg)
Secretary

DEDICATION DAY
BOWERS BEACH MARITIME MUSEUM
June 19, 1976

Blessing of the Boats at Wharf ..... 6:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Fire House ..... 7:30 to 10:00 a.m.
(Ms. Beverley Tuthill, Chairlady)

Bicentennial Wagon Train — at site of museum ..... 9:30 a.m.
(Sponsored by State of Delaware)

Dedication Ceremonies at Museum ..... 10:30 a.m.

50-50 Drawing at Museum ..... 11:00 a.m.

After above ceremonies, all persons are invited to tour the museum.

Music ..... W. B. Chipman Jr. High School Band
Lake Forrest School District

MARITIME MUSEUM COMMITTEE, INC.
OF BOWERS BEACH

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Helen Byrd Achtenberg

Coleman Morris — Mike Gosch

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