

Carter Craft

“Builders Of Fine Boats”
1951- 1969

Registry

July-August 2016

Howard's Legacy

Chere Sandusky
1956 Sea Hawk



65th
Anniversary





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July/August 2016

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Registry Founded
2008

Newsletter Published
Bi-Monthly

Please Submit Articles
For Publication To
pressleyrick@gmail.com
Please submit by the 15th
Of Month Prior To Next
Publishing Date.

2016 Newsletters

Jan- Feb
Mar - Apr.
May - Jun
Jul - Aug.
Sep. – Oct.
Nov. – Dec.

Current Registry

Members – 37
Guest – 16

Past Editors

Bruce Danielson
Founder
2008-2015
Ed Dominiak
2015- 2016



FROM THE EDITOR

Rick Pressley



Happy Independence Day all. Great time to celebrate with family. What a great country we live in. Ball games, even two for one sales. Like the Cleveland Indians 18 inning game. More baseball for your money.

I want to thank all of you that responded to the last newsletter. All positive comments and to those that didn't respond. I hope you enjoyed as well. This is for you and I welcome your feedback. Good or bad. As long as constructive. It has been a very busy schedule for myself, but I have managed to get the boat in the water with my family during June. Still a blast.

I have included several stories I hope you enjoy. Reunion 59 years in the making. Reunites a boat with the people that built her for the first time in 59 years. The luncheon in Panama City was a very meaningful highlight for me this year. Fantastic to actually sit down and visit with people with firsthand knowledge of these wonderful boats. I plan additional stories on this visit, as I continue to communicate with Odeal, Harlan and Winston.

I received several personal stories from some of you during the last thirty days. These will get published in the next issue. Your participation will determine the content and value of the newsletter. I need you to submit articles, photos, for sale

items and show dates.

We have updated the registry with new guest and members. See page 17. Please feel free to share my contact info with folks you know. Let's try to see how many more carter Craft boats are out there. Surely the list is larger than our current one.

The Bay Museum is going ahead with their show and the date is set for November. See the ads. We need you and your boat to make this a success. Call me or email if you have questions. I have already reserved a hotel and committed to supporting this show.

Enjoy your boats and share the stories.



WE NEED YOU!

Howard's Legacy

Chere Sandusky - Oregon



"Howard's Legacy" is a 1956 Carter Craft Sea Hawk sixteen foot boat with a Cuddy cabin.

Our boat was named after my dad but not until years after his passing. We could never think of a name for it until my husband came up with "Howards Legacy". When I was little we just called it "Baba's Boat". My dad was a waterman, born just a few blocks from the Willamette River in Oak Grove, OR in 1916. His dad was a waterman. Dad actually paddled in a canoe to Milwaukie High School from home on the Willamette river, catching the occasional Sturgeon for his biology teacher. He got an 'A' out of that class!

Dad was in the Coast Guard during WWII. He inscribed in his Blue Jackets Manual, when he gave it to me, that I would have made a good sailor. And he often told me that I had river water running through my veins, just like him.

We always had a boat. We had a beach house on the Nestucca River and had a boat there that dad and grandpa built. We went crabbing, clamming and fishing there all the time. When I was three I wondered why I didn't get to "drive the boat"! My brother did. Never mind that he was eleven.

When I was about thirteen I used to walk to the Willamette River which was about three miles away from our home in S.E. Portland and spend the

whole day on the river with my best friend. Soon I began bugging dad for an eight foot punt.

I wanted a boat of my own. Dad started looking for a boat. I thought he was looking for a punt for me. Instead he came home with a sixteen foot Carter Craft

boat with portholes!!! I was in hog heaven but the boat was not mine...yet.

Dad bought the boat at McCuddy's Marina on the Columbia. The year was 1960. The boat was four years old. The original owner trailered it from Florida to Oregon and took it out on the Columbia and tried to cross the Bar (Graveyard of the Pacific). He survived, barely, and brought the boat up to McCuddy's and sold it on the spot. He bought something bigger. That is where dad found our boat.

I learned to water sky behind that boat on the Willamette. We enjoyed the boat for many, many years. Years later dad bought a bigger boat. I think it was twenty-two feet. I think it was a Bayliner I had a fit!!! First thing out of my mouth was, "What are you going to do with Baba's Boat"??? Well, he said he was going to give it to me. Not my brother...ME !!! And so he did.

More years passed and my husband and I moved to the coast. We lived at Nehalem in the middle of the Nehalem

River on an island. We had had the Carter Craft partially restored (\$16,000.) and so there was no way it was going to live in the salt water year round. We bought a Blue Water fiberglass boat which we named "Number Two" and it got to live in the salt water year round. Howard's Legacy was our Sunday-go-to-meetin' boat. We always said when the floods got really bad we would just release

the bunkers and float off the trailer and out of the garage. It never came to that. Close, but not that bad.

My husband became ill, we moved off the coast for better medical and EMS. My husband died almost five years ago. We only used the boat once since moving to Forest Grove in 2007. I knew I could not trailer it or launch it by myself. I knew how to do all these things, just could not do it all alone. My dad could. So, with great sadness (and joy) I passed the boat on to my dear son, Jason. He lives close to Puget Sound. I hope he gets to have lots and lots of fun with the boat. I hope he invites me out for a ride.



Chere Sandusky's Husband and Son

A Reunion 59 Years In The Making

March 5th 2016

By: Rick Pressley

Months in the planning stages, my trip to Panama City for a historical reunion was finally coming together. We left Indiantown, Florida on Friday morning and headed off to Panama City. The 57 Sea Hawk in tow on its original trailer for the 9 hours' drive. All went very well. Every stop along the way yielded waves of interest about the boat. "My dad had one of those" common statement. Driving along Florida's turnpike, I-75 and I-10 across the panhandle of Florida received lots of "thumbs up" from passersby.

The reason for this reunion of boat, builder and upholstery shop owner actually started in 1975. When you are sixteen, the future you see is very near sighted. The things I was concerned about, girls, graduation and was I going to Vietnam? The purchase of a 1960 Carter Craft Sea Hawk in South Carolina, in the summer of 1975 would start the clock ticking on a reunion of lifetime for me and two people that were just trying to make a living when they were building Carter Craft boats (Harlan Wilson) and making the upholstery (Bob's Top Shop – Odeal Gainer). The enablers for this reunion were Bruce Danielson's Carter Craft Registry, Glenda Walters Bay History Museum and Winston Chester's book "Full Box".

It was mid-morning March 5th. I arrived at the Bay Historical Society Museum with my 1957 Carter Craft Sea Hawk in tow. We were greeted by the staff and toured the museum. When we had completed our tour,



L/R – Harlan Wilson, Rick Pressley, Odeal Gainer & Winston Chester

Robert Moore showed us his private collection including his Carter boat. His collection has got to be the largest "man cave" I have ever been in. Robert very graciously shared his knowledge of the boats. Sitting on placard inside his boat on display was Bruce Danielson's story on Carter Craft boats.

As we were standing in front of museum, someone walked up from behind. "Been a long time since I have seen this old girl". Reference to the 1957 Sea Hawk. Sounds like Harlan Wilson, I knew his voice from numerous phone calls the previous months. This was the start of the real purpose of my trip to the panhandle. The home of Carter Craft. Harlan, Robert and I got into a longer than expected conversation. My phone rang, it was Winston Chester. We are at the restaurant waiting on you. I apologized and Harlan led the way to Sue's on 390.

Now Sue's seems to be the greatest choice for the meeting I have been anxiously awaiting. Sue's on 390 is owned by Sue Bingham Herring.

If you know your Carter Craft history, Sue is the daughter of Tom Bingham, President of Carter Craft Boats. Upon arrival we sat down for lunch with Harlan Wilson, Worked for James Carter as a boat builder. Odeal Gainer, owner of Bob's Top Shop with her husband Bob. They provided upholstery for Carter Craft for the duration of production.

And last, but not least. Winston Chester. Author of "Full Box". *100 Years of Fishing and Boat Building History in Bay County*. He also his host of local He is also host of local TV show on WPGX FOX 28 called Panhandle Outdoors.

The food, service and conversation were fantastic.

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A Reunion 59 Years In The Making

(Continued – page 2 Of 4)

. Harlan and Odeal shared their experiences over the course of their careers. Fantastic life stories that are such a part of the history of these great boats. We could have been there for weeks.

Harlan Wilson – He was hired by James Carter in 1954. As far as he knows, he is the last living employee of the company. He is full of history and you can tell from his smile that he enjoys sharing the memories from a lifetime of building beautiful boats. He is a great gentleman and a joy to spend time with. Harlan shared his recollections of his time with the company. Each day started with fifteen minute devotions. Not much of that in the workplace today. They all got work uniforms with Carter Craft on the back. They could wear outside of work with one exception. Could not wear to bars that was unacceptable. You represented the company.

Production, we turned out 25 boats a week and had to make custom trailers haul boats. Each trailer could hold 6 boats. Four trailer loads of boats left the factory every Friday for all over the country and would arrive back in Panama City in time for the next load. In the busy months, they had as many as 70 employees

Painting and Finishing, Harlan stated that the way they achieved they high gloss was through a process of heating the paint and spraying without thinners. Harlan did the striping.

Quality, James was very much driven to deliver the best boats possible. Harlan stated that he installed pencil sharpeners on the walls. He better not catch you doing



layout work with a dull pencil. This would lead to misfits in trim and plywood joints.

Bow Eye, Harlan stated that James Carter hand carved the design for the boats out of wood. He would have these cast to go on all boats. Most other boats used a design with one bolt that went through into the inside of the hull with a nut. James wanted a two screw design. So he fabricated his own design.

Materials, Plywood, He had people fly overseas to secure orders for mahogany and teak. Plywood were 5/16 on sides and tops. 3/8 on bottom.

Windshields were made locally in Panama City.

Steering Wheels came from Atwater. They just used whatever they were shipped from Atwater. That is why there are so many different designs.

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Steering Wheel Examples.



Robert Moore's Ultimate man Cave

Built by Mr. Carter /Harlan Wilson after he formed 6 Carter Boats.

A Reunion 59 Years In The Making

(Continued – Page 3 of 4)

Odeal Carter Gainer – Bob's Top Shop (Still in Business, Since 1949). A note before you call. They no longer to boat interiors. Just awnings.

Odeal Gainer, great lady to spend a day with. Her recollections of the history her company had with Carter Craft is sharp. Bob's Top Shop was contracted to make the seat cushions, enclosures and Bimini tops for all the boats.

Odeal's recollection of sets of cushions and tops matches Harland's production count. She stated that she sewed five sets of cushions and tops every week. If she didn't meet production, she worked on Saturdays to catch up. Since she sewed all the cushions, that means I met the lady that sewed the original upholstery for my boat. They referred to the notch in the bow cushions as "pistol grips". She stated these were very difficult to sew. But necessary to make the cushion fit correct and provide a quality product. The cushions were stuffed with horse and hogs hair. Her husband Bob and son, Gerald would drive around the bay area to collect all they could to meet demand. These cushions and tops were delivered to Carter Craft to ship with boats.

The boats also could be ordered with an enclosure that could closed off the entire cockpit for overnight camping. Odeal provided a sketch of what the enclosure looked like and trim info. The overnigher enclosure was not installed at Carter Craft. If people wanted them,



they would bring their boats to Bob's Top Shop for installation. Odeal provided a hand drawn sketch of what they looked like. They were sewn with a 2.5 inch border of the color of the tops. A Clear window with zippers that worked from outside or inside, Bimini top had zipper on three sides. It was clear with zippered access from back, both sides. It attached to the back of the area in front of gas tank. She stated my boat appeared to have had one originally because of the holes near the transom where fasteners have been removed. People ordered these not only for overnight, but to secure young kids and keep them from falling overboard. If people ordered the enclosure, boats were sent over to them for installation.

Odeal shared that since she and Bob were making all these cushions and tops, they should own a boat. They bought a 1955 brand new with optional folding chairs. These chairs were wood and made by Take-Along Chair Company. In later years, as seen in some pictures. These chairs were aluminum folding chairs with webbing. She forgot, that when she sold the boat to include them. These chairs are still in my daughter's garage. Would you like

to have, she asked. Absolutely, so this led to a side trip to retrieve the chairs. We spent time with two great host, Jim and Ann Zediker at their home in Chipley, Florida. Jim is in the process of building a wooden boat now and showed off his very skilled handiwork. We retrieved the chairs and my Mother-in-law, Mary Channel made new covers in time to display at the 2016 Sunnyland show. What a great addition to the history of this boat. I am having an enclosure made for my boat per Odeal's drawing and plan to have it in place before the November show in Panama City.

Continued – Page 8



A Reunion 59 Years In The Making

(Continued – Page 4 of 4)

Last, but not least. Winston Chester, great meeting him and glad he joined us for lunch. Winston owned a Firestone Edition, built by Carter Craft to advertise Firestones entry into the outboard motor competition. A beautiful boat that now has a new owner. Winston did a massive undertaking to document the last 100 years of fishing and boating in the bay area. He has published the book mentioned above in hard cover edition. I scored and autographed edition of this book for my library. If you like boating, fishing and history, in any order you choose. You will enjoy this book. His TV show very informative as well. I had watched some of his shows on YouTube prior to our lunch.

I have been restoring cars for most of my life. I have been in a lot of car clubs over the years. I have never had the privilege of enjoying a lunch and great conversation with any of production crew for Mustangs. This was a true delight to enjoy a short time together to get acquainted and listen to stories that can only be shared by the people that were there.

Thanks to Harlan, Odeal, Winston and Robert for sharing great stories and add to help document the history of these great boats. Also, a great restaurant Sue's on 390.

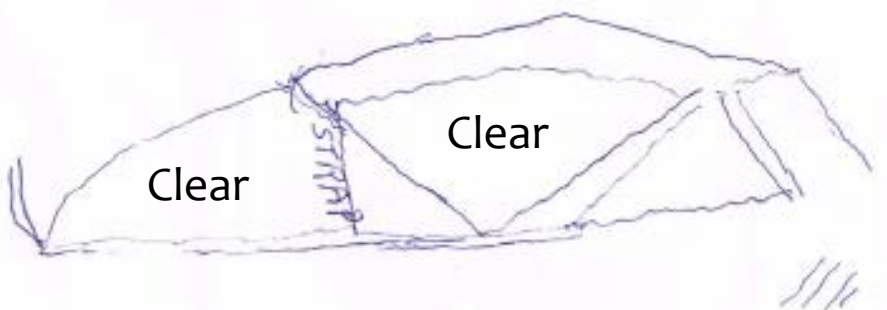
Cushions Folded Down For Sleeping



Example Of Pistol Grip (Notch In Cushion) Referred To By Odeal Gainer



Enclosure For Carter Craft Sketch By Odeal Gainer 05March16



**BAY COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM
IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PANAMA
CITY**

223 West 6th Street Panama city, Florida

Carter Craft

2016 SHOW

Join Us

Saturday, November 5th. 2016

10am – 4pm



WE NEED YOU!



**65th
Anniversary**



**Mark Your Calendar Now. Let's make the Largest gathering of
Carter Crafts Ever!**

More Details To Come in Separate E-Mail
Stay Tuned!

BAY COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PANAMA CITY


223 West 6th Street Panama city, Florida

Carter Craft


2015 SHOW

I toured the Museum back in March of 2016 on trip to research the history of Carter Craft boats. I had been in contact with Glenda Walters at the Museum prior to my visit. And discussed the show they held in 2015. They generously provided photos of the show and details. This was the first Carter Craft boat show they had done. They had four boats attend. Based on what I have seen, this is probably the most Carter Craft Boats in one location in many years. Maybe since the last production year. If someone can prove me wrong, please provide details. Glenda

stated that they had 175 people sign in to the guest register that day at the museum. Many more did not sign in. Judging from the turnout, the crew at the museum did a great job hosting this event. When I arrived at the museum, Robert Moore gave me the grand tour and spent time showing us all the goodies. What a great display of marine history. The Museum graciously provided photos and information on last years show. Will you join with us to make the 2016 show bigger and better?



Bay County
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
Pieces of the Past, Preserved for the Present



223 W. 6th Street
Panama City, Florida 32402
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
Private Tours Available by Appointment
(850) 818-0964
FREE ADMISSION

Please visit our website or contact the museum for a complete listing of programs and events.
www.bayhistory.org
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



Rick & Valerie Pressley's 1957 Sea Hawk
March 2016

BAY HISTORY MUSEUM

223 West 6th Street Panama city, Florida

Carter Craft

2015 SHOW



BAY HISTORY MUSEUM

223 West 6th Street Panama city, Florida

Carter Craft

2015 SHOW





Members & Guest

New Members – If you know anyone that owns or interested in Carter Craft boats, please encourage them to join our registry.

Guest
 Odeal Carter Gainer – Bob’s Top Shop (Wife Of Bob Gainer)
 Panama City, Florida
 Harlan Wilson
 Carter Craft Boat Employee – Boat Builder
 Panama City, Florida
 Glenda Walters
 Bay History Museum
 Panama City, Florida
 Ann & Jim Ziedekin
 Bob’s Top Shop (Daughter Of Bob & Odeal Gainer)
 Panama City Florida

Members
 Mike Miller – Miller Marine
 Panama City, Fl.
 Robert Moore
 Panama City, Fl.

Carter Craft Registry Q4 2014

By State/Country





Pat Pulaski's Maiden Voyage 2016
1956 Sea Hawk



Robert Kellogg's Carter Craft
1958 Sea Flite

Member Boats, we would like to have updated photos of your boat! In the water, at shows.
We would like to document for the club all members boats.

If in restoration, that would be great as well.

Please send photo, year, make, engine size and boat name to pressleyrick@gmail.com



For Sale



\$30.00 Need To be Re Plated
Inserts have no cracks, but are Worn.
Can barely make out "Carter Craft"
Contact Rick Pressley 561-459-5380



Shirts and Hat Available – For Sale
If interested contact me and I will provide
information



1961 Carter Craft

Imperial 19' Runabout

Expanded Royalite
(Pre-Fiberglass)
All Original

90 Hp, 1964 Evinrude Outboard
"Little Dude" Galvanized Trailer
Note Hatch and Port Holes

Serious Inquiries Only
Want her to go to a good home.
Needs Some Restoration
Boat has been in storage facility
Not been in the water sine 1983

Contact Lewis White
713-249-1033 or

LewisWhite77@Hotmail.com

This boat needs a great home!



Next Newsletter Articles

2016 ACBS Show In Tavares, Fl.

By: Rick Pressley

Pat Pulaski's Maiden Voyage

Member Boats (I need yours)



Show Schedule

Nov 5th, 2016 Bay County History Museum Show In Planning Stages.

We have about 6 commitments, two more than last year. Our goal is a dozen boats. Let's have a great show to celebrate 65th anniversary of the founding of Carter Craft.

March 22-27th, 2017 Sunnyland ACBS Show

You will love this show. For the last two years, I have been the only Carter Craft boat in the show.