



Our October 2022 meeting will be held on **Monday, October 10, 2022** starting at **7:30 PM**. Jerry Woolley, the Point Pleasant Historian and author of numerous books on the history of Point Pleasant, will speak on the work of the Historical Preservation Commission and answer questions from the audience relating to local history. Meeting location: Woman's Club of Point Pleasant Building, 513 St. Louis Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. Face coverings are optional and your decision to mask or not mask will be respected by all.

Remembering the *Joan La Rie III* and *Whoopla 7*

Forty years ago, the local fishing community suffered a massive loss when the *Joan La Rie III* capsized and *Whoopla 7* went missing just four days apart from each other.

On October 24, 1982, Captain Charles Housley piloted the 48-foot charter fishing vessel *Joan La Rie III* from Ken's Landing in Point Pleasant Beach around 6:00 AM with 22 people onboard, including one crewman and numerous members of the Gaelic Cultural Society from Greenwood Lake, New York for a day of fishing. Tragedy struck at about 11:30 AM when a rogue wave knocked the boat onto its side, which swept all onboard into the rough Atlantic Ocean about eight and a half miles off the Manasquan Inlet.

Fourteen survivors were picked up by lifeboats from a passing Brazilian cargo vessel *Itape* or clung to debris until Coast Guard rescue vessels and helicopters arrived.

Helicopters took the victims and survivors to Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune and to Jenkinson's Pavilion, where they were loaded up into ambulances and transported to Point Pleasant Hospital.

Eight souls were lost at sea, including Captain Charles Housley of Brick Township; Walter Meisenbacher, the boat's mate, also of Brick Township; Thomas Nolan, passenger from Tuxedo, NY; Frank Jackson, passenger from Middletown, NY; Nicholas Santopietro, Thomas Smythe, and Ranier Gsignet, passengers from Greenwood Lake, NY and William Jordan, passenger from Hillburn, NY.

Days after the incident, diver Patrick Yananton took pictures of the *Joan La Rie III* resting on the ocean's floor. His images and video revealed a discharge hose believed to be the starboard bilge pump was not connected

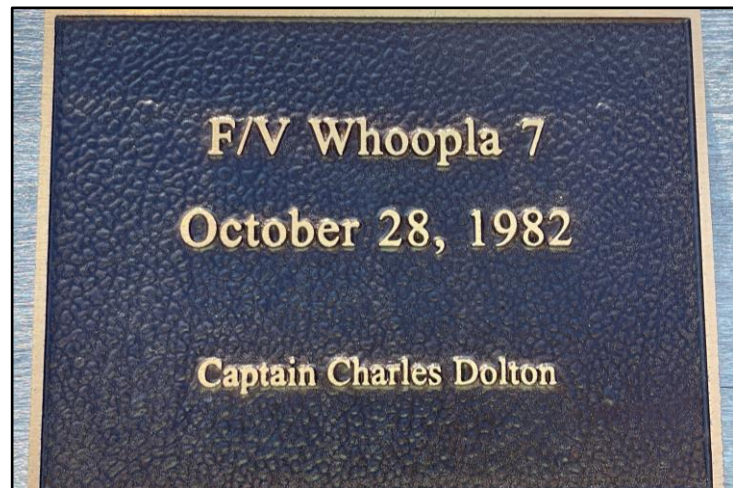
A Coast Guard inquiry attributed the capsizing to the combination of a broken bilge pump and the effects of the rogue wave.

Four days after the loss of the *Joan La Rie III*, Point Pleasant resident Captain Charles Dolton was piloting his 38' inshore dragger/lobster boat *Whoopla 7* from Westbrook, Connecticut bound for Virginia with 50 lobster pots aboard.

Dolton planned to stop in either New York or Point Pleasant Beach to refuel, but he never arrived. Neither the vessel nor Dolton were ever found.



Above: The plaque honoring those lost onboard the *Joan La Rie III* at the Fisherman's Memorial in Point Pleasant Beach. Photo by Jill Ocone



Above: The plaque honoring Captain Charles Dolton at the Fisherman's Memorial in Point Pleasant Beach. Below: The Fisherman's Memorial iconic statue. Photos by Jill Ocone.





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Continuing our presentation of timelines of historical events by the decades,
 this issue will feature the 1940's. -Len Ludovico-

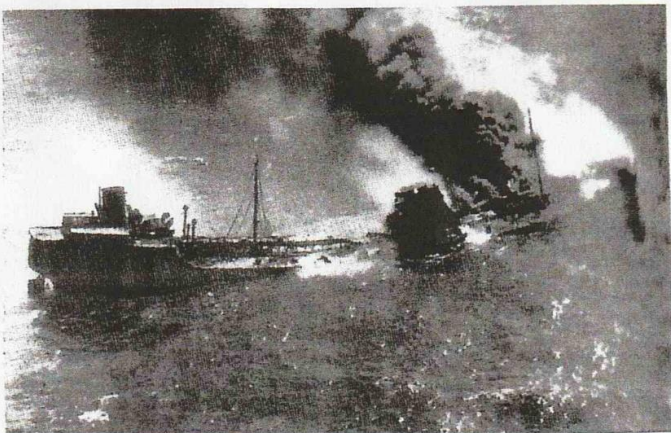
1940-The census reported New Jersey's population as 4,160,165.

1941-Governor Charles Edison, son of the inventor, was the last NJ governor to summer at Sea Girt in the "Little White House."

- December 7-The Japanese attacked the US Naval Base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. WWII began.
- Point Pleasant's William E. Miller, was one of thousands of patriotic Americans who immediately volunteered to serve on the homefront. From a tower built at the Manasquan Inlet, he, of the Aircraft Warning Service, scanned the sky and the sea with binoculars for any enemy activity.

1942-The Cook Homestead building, now the site of the Antrim School, burned to the ground. The abandoned building was last used as a clubhouse for the golf course.

- Feb. 28-A German submarine torpedoed the SS R. P. Resor (below) 18 miles east of Lavallette on a bright moonlit night. The explosion and "spectacular, towering fire" was so great that it could be seen from shore.



- May 6-As the Philippines fell to Japan, Gen. Douglas MacArthur made his famous statement, "I shall return!" (and he did.)

1943-Dec. 7-The battleship USS New Jersey was launched. It served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the Middle East. The most decorated ship in American history is now a floating museum at Camden.

- MGM movie star Judy Garland entertained GI's stationed at Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock.

1944-June 6-Local (Pt. Plsnt. Bch.) D-Day hero, Leonard "Bud" Lomell, scaled the 100 ft. cliff at Pointe du Hoc, and disabled 5 Nazi artillery "Big Guns." Lomell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star for his actions.



Sergeant Len Lomell, 1944. (Courtesy of the Eisenhower Center for American Studies, University of New Orleans)

1945-WWII ended: VE-Day May 8, VJ-Day Aug. 15.

1946-April 18-Jackie Robinson, playing for the Montreal Royals in a season-opening AAA minor league game against the Jersey City Giants, broke baseball's "color line" at J.C. Roosevelt Stadium. One year later he did it again in the majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1947-The greatest 24-hour snowfall recorded in New Jersey history occurred over December 26-27.

1948-The NJ Turnpike Authority was created to supervise the building of the turnpike.

1949-At our neighboring Lorraine Theater in Bay Head, there was a showing of "The Girl From Jones Beach," starring Ronald Reagan and Virginia Mayo.

In the late 1940's and into the 1950's the Arnold Theater hosted Saturday afternoon kiddie matinees. The cost of a ticket was only 9¢ (nine cents!) Two movies, a newsreel, a serial, and 3 cartoons were shown.

