

Classic Yachts

1940 Chris-Craft Double Cabin



Year: 1940
Make: Chris-Craft
Name: *Maranee*
Model: Double Cabin Enclosed Bridge Cruiser
Engine: Twin Hercules M-130
Length: 42 feet
Cruising Speed: 9 knots
Material: Mahogany

"Chris-Craft is the Cadillac of boats," Jim Paynton's father, George, used to say. Paynton remembers his father's voice holding a certain reverence whenever uttering the name Algonac, Michigan, where the historic boats were built. Paynton and his father would often see a lovely, old Chris-Craft double cabin cruiser out on Lake Union or on Puget Sound and remark what a perfect family boat such a vessel would make: twin engines, two staterooms, two heads and gorgeous woodwork inside and out.

In 1988, the Payntons' recurring dreams about a larger classic boat led them to inquire about an old double cabin cruiser moored across from their 1941 Chris-Craft, *Terry-Deb*. Hidden under a big tarp, the boat turned out to be a 1940 42-foot Chris. "As my father and I wandered through her lovely cabins, we wondered if this might be one of the very boats we had seen and admired a generation earlier," Paynton recalled. As luck would have it, *Maranee's* owner of near-

ly 30 years had recently purchased a large oceangoing yacht, and the Payntons quickly became new owners.

One of the most memorable events came in the summer of 2003 when the Payntons welcomed Chris Smith, grandson of Chris-Craft founder Christopher Columbus Smith, aboard *Maranee* at a rendezvous. Smith's obvious joy at seeing the boat was enriched by the many stories he told about working at the Chris-Craft plant in the 1940s.

While she has won a few awards at classic boat events, the Payntons don't consider *Maranee* to be a showboat. Nevertheless, she usually gathers admirers each time she pulls up to a new dock, and they seem to enjoy hearing stories about her history and renovation.

Renovation: There have been many obligatory tasks involved with *Maranee*, like rebuilding her original twin Hercules 130 hp engines, rewiring, stripping woodwork and polishing chrome. His wife, Margie, said, "We are honored to be caretakers, not only of her place in maritime history, but of the memories of families before us who invested in this 'Cadillac'."

History: The Payntons' stewardship has included tracing *Maranee's* "genealogy," ultimately connecting with descendants of all four of her previous owners. In researching *Maranee's* history, the Payntons delved deeply into the Chris-

sea stats

147

Total number of Marina Recreation Association (MRA) marinas in the state of California.

71

Percentage of marinas in Newport Beach that qualify for the Clean Marinas California Program Certificate.

1

Total number of marinas in the state of Washington that offer slips for boats over 70 feet (Carillon Point Marina in Kirkland).

14

Total number of marinas in the California Delta that offer repair services.

1,200

Approximate number of slips at Columbia Crossings in Oregon, the most in the state.

\$1.32

Average rate per foot, per night for a guest slip in B.C., Canada.

Craft archives in Newport News, Virginia, pored over old volumes of yacht registries' historic magazines, and even sorted through yacht club archives in Ohio. A set of logbooks from the 1940s and 1950s relate *Maranee's* extensive cruising of the Great Lakes, from her homeport on Lake Erie north into Georgian Bay and the St. Lawrence Seaway. After *Maranee* arrived on Puget Sound by rail car in 1959, photos and stories of travels into Canadian waters added to her lineage. She has remained a family boat, connecting with others in the Chris-Craft community ever since. *More Info:* www.maranee.com