

PAINTING
NO. 18

1987

TUG J. ALVA CLARK - 1930'S

Length 90.0 Breadth 19.0 Depth 10.0

OFFICIAL NO: 157287
GROSS TONNAGE: 130
NET TONNAGE: 65
BUILT: 1891 - Newport News, Virginia
CREW: 9
POWER: First with 215 h.p. steam engine with coal fired boiler
Next diesel engines using fuel oil.

Named after J. Alva Clark who owned and operated a small fleet of tug boats in the Norfolk harbor in the early 1900's.

The tug has become well known in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia because she was the 1st vessel Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company built and was placed ashore near the entrance to the shipyard when she was retired from service.

She was named and renamed many times thru the years. Her name when built was Dorothy. She was renamed Dorothy, as original, when rebuilt and placed ashore.

She was one of about 10 steam tug boats and 30 wooden barges owned and operated by Norfolk Lighterage Company, Inc. in the 1920's - 1930's. The company was owned by W. W. Colonna, Sr. and B. O. Colonna, Sr. of Norfolk, Virginia. This fleet primarily worked in and around the port of Hampton Roads, Virginia but did work up the Chesapeake Bay, James River and the canals, rivers and sounds of North Carolina.

The tug had her steam engine removed and a diesel engine installed in the mid 1930's by Norfolk Lighterage Company and was the 1st tug to be dieselized in the Norfolk harbor. She had good lines and was of good proportion making her a nice looking tug boat.