

CAPTAIN FRED KALM

Fred, a charter boat captain and bayman, might have grown up in northern Germany had his father, Otto, not visited friends in New Gretna before Fred was born, and liked it so much he stayed. Otto worked on tug boats in the ocean all along the East Coast, besides building his own garvey to ply the bay.

Fred, who still lives in Tuckerton, says that any kind of living he has ever made has come out of the bay. His father and he raised oysters, fished for striped bass and tonged for clams and scallops. They also built a few garveys for other people.

Playing baseball in high school for Tuckerton on a team that took to the field on Sunday afternoons led to a signed contract with the Detroit Tigers. Fred went into the Navy during the Korean War and served on an aircraft carrier, the *Philippine Sea*. It was around this time that his father built Fred's first charter boat, *Sapphire Lady*. Fred had that boat for 23 years, selling it only after he got his present charter boat, the *Kalm Waters*.

Fred regularly clammed and crabbed all winter until the bay froze over. The icy months were spent repairing the boat for the next season. One winter produced a chilling near-tragedy. While working on the boat when it was tied to the dock, Fred slipped on the icy deck and fell overboard. He remembers having a terrible time getting out of the frigid water, and swallowing a lot of salt water before he was able to climb to safety.

Fred has gunned for ducks, geese and mudhens, and has hunted deer and rabbits. Raising springer spaniels for awhile, he became known for having the best springers around. He said, with a laugh, that he got real popular when he had good dogs.