

1941 Dunphy Portage "Paulina"



This 1941 Dunphy Portage Model 401 was built in Oshkosh Wisconsin. Weighing only 95 pounds, it is easily transported on top of a vehicle, or carried down to the water. The original owner used it primarily for duck hunting in northern Minnesota and was later found in a garage and restored. The boat has all original wood, hardware and oars. The restoration and preservation process involved removing the canvas hull covering and stripping the original varnish. The hull was meticulously cleaned, tacks reset and many new coats of varnish applied. New hull canvas was attached and painted to the original green color. This boat is used regularly and enjoyed.

The outboard motor is a 1948 Neptune Model AA2, producing 3.3 hp. Neptune was a brand of Muncie Gear Works marine division.

Dunphy Boat Company History:

The Dunphy Boat Company started in 1854 building planked row boats in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The firm moved to Oshkosh in the mid 1930's. The 1941 line included fishing boats, sailboats and canoes. At this time, all Dunphy boats were of strip-built cedar construction.

During WWII Dunphy built hulls for the war effort and developed the first moulded plywood hulls and by 1946 included the design construction to their popular line of recreation boats. The new construction started an evolution between cedar planked and cedar strip built boats of the pre and post WWII era and the fiberglass classics of the early 1960's, the light moulded plywood boats gained a huge following. As plywood veneer technology evolved in the 1950's, plywood moulded hulls that could be produced in volume with a variety of trim features took off in the mid 1950's. The height of Dunphy's popularity was between 1955 thru 1957 having a very stylish line of runabouts that appealed to family boaters and fisherman. The company switched to lap strake hulls in 1961 and went out of business in 1963 to the popularity of fiberglass boats.