

# PONYO, A CAMDEN CLASS KNOCKABOUT

I started racing sailboats when I was 11 years old and gathered experience in a number of dinghy classes including Beetles, Blue Jays, Explorers, Lightnings, and Lasers. I raced Jazz Fish, my Freedom 35 for many years winning titles under six different rating rules: One Design, PHRF, New York Yacht Club Cruising Rule, IMS, AmeriCap and IRC. I did my best under ORC to make it seven, but could manage no better than second. So close.

Meanwhile. I understood that one day the company would award me my Gold Watch and set me out to pasture. When that happened, I did not want to be lost with nothing to do, so with about ten years to spare I decided to find an excellent way to enjoy the rest of my years. I took a week-long course at the WoodenBoat School, then another, then

many more until I felt I was capable of taking on a multiyear project.

If I was going to build a boat it would be wood, and if it was wood, it should be a classic. I looked at a number of Herreshoff and Crowninshield designs, restricting my options to gaffers that I could build in my waterfront basement shop and still fit out the garage door when I was done.



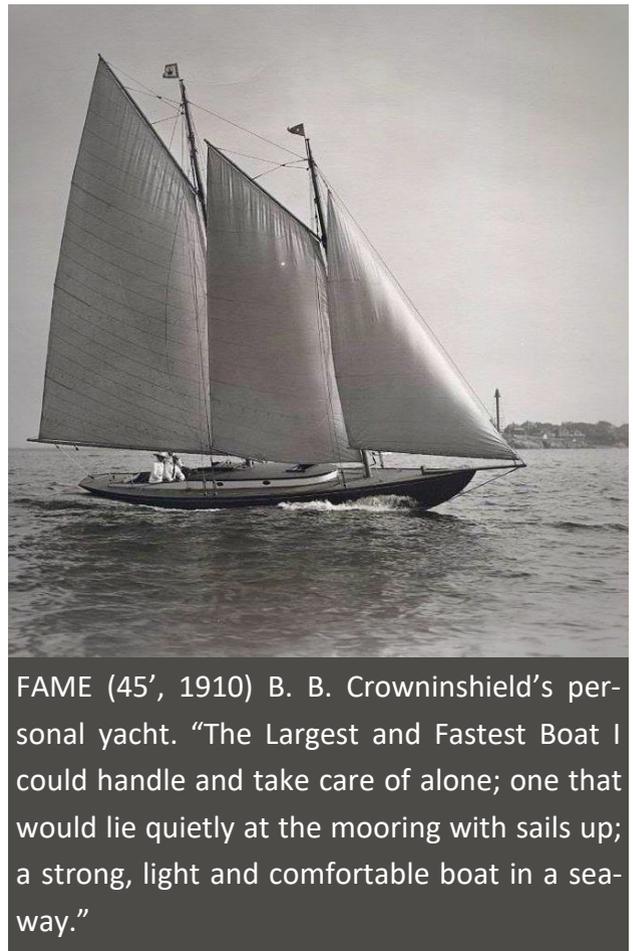


ADVENTRESS (133', 1913)

I think the loveliest I considered was the Camden Class Knockabout designed by B.B. Crowninshield who was known for his racing yachts, ranging from large schooners to small knockabouts. In 1915 the Camden Yacht Club engaged him to design a knockabout for its members, and four were built. Over the years two have disappeared, one is still sailing in North Haven, and one is derelict in Northport, Maine.

In 2015, exactly a hundred years later I reviewed the four pages of plans, prepared the lofting floor and got to work. I

did about 80% of the work myself, but an assortment of relatives and friends helped me with advice, sweat and inspiration. Ponyo was launched with neighborhood fanfare in 2021 and has been sailed regularly, often competing in classic yacht regattas.



FAME (45', 1910) B. B. Crowninshield's personal yacht. "The Largest and Fastest Boat I could handle and take care of alone; one that would lie quietly at the mooring with sails up; a strong, light and comfortable boat in a seaway."