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# The Schooner Adventuress

By JUNE MEHRER

The October cover of *Castoff* featured a photograph of the schooner *Adventuress*. Local mariners have a long familiarity with the sight of the *Adven-*

*turess* tacking north on Puget Sound, or sheltering for the night in a quiet cove, surrounded by young people sailing the dinghies. Youth Adventure, a non



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profit corporation, has operated the 64 year old schooner for 15 years as a sailing school for young people. Fees are kept to a minimum through the generosity of people who help support the program with tax deductible donations of funds or marine related equipment.

The kids spend wonderful hard-working days under sail, developing blisters, skills and sunburns. Captivated by the ancient lure of wooden decks aslant and creaking canvas, many of the young people return to participate in the winter maintenance and restoration projects.

The 101 foot wooden schooner was built in 1913 in East Boothbay, Maine by Rice Brothers as designed by B.B. Crowninshield, for an arctic trophy hunting expedition. In 1914 she was purchased by the San Francisco Bar Pilots and served 37 years as a pilot ship off the San Francisco Bar, sustaining a number of mishaps and modifications, including having her masts bobbed. She might have been aban-

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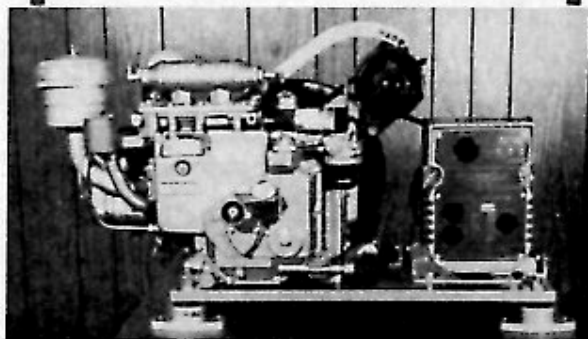
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done in 1915 when she sustained a fire but the Bar Pilots thought enough of her to rebuild, without replacing the luxurious below deck fittings, however. In 1927 her foremast snapped at deck level during a violent storm outside San Francisco Bay. It was replaced and she continued in service until 1952 when "Doc" Freeman brought her to Seattle. Several owners later, in 1959, Youth Adventure acquired the vessel and began developing a program designed to teach youthful sailors the traditions of the sea, boat handling and safety afloat. Crews rotate watches and in the galley, developing responsibility and responding to the teamwork and close living with a new awareness of themselves in relation to other people.

Since 1975 *Adventuress* has been certified by the Coast Guard, new masts have been stepped, watertight bulkheads installed and other extensive restoration started. The vessel was not ready in 1976 to join the East Coast Tall Ships Parade to represent the West. Now *Adventuress*, her young adult

crew and teen-aged sailors will be ready to participate in the inland waters part of "Tall Ships Pacific '78" as the Northwest's authentic sail training ship. *Adventuress* links the future, our youth, with the Northwest's honored maritime past when wind ships were the lifeline of the West Coast and it's developing industries.

More restoration work is coming down the home stretch with this winter's projects already started by young volunteers. They have designed and built hatch covers, deck houses and expanded the living quarters which accommodate 30 trainee sailors.

A new gaff mainsail is a major goal for '78 contingent on funding. Large headsails, which may be surplus to other operations, if donated to *Adventuress* could be recut to fly off her new bowsprit.

Inquiries about participation can be directed to Youth Adventure, Inc., 5005 - 91st Avenue Southeast, Mercer Island, Washington 98040. Attention: Erni Bennett, president or Karl Mehrer, Captain. Phone (206) 232-4024.

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