



Maritime Editor

Glen Carter

New bowsprit for schooner

The good schooner *Adventuress* received a new 29-foot bowsprit yesterday — which is not headline news, but when a historic ship takes on a second-childhood look in her 60th year, the event is worth mention.

The 102-foot *Adventuress* is no ordinary lady. She is the only active sailing ship of her size in Seattle's so-called historic minifleet. The *Wawona's* masts are stepped but she is not rigged. The *Explorer*, the former survey ship, sports new masts, but she awaits further rigging prior to sailing efforts.

The *Adventuress*, built in 1913 in Maine, is a working gal who has attained 13 knots under canvas. The bowsprit will add tremendously to her square footage of cloth which will permit her to point more into wind.

ALL OF WHICH pleases her co-skippers, Monty Morton and Karl Mahrer. Morton bought the schooner from William Reault in 1959 for Youth Adventure, Inc., of which Morton is president. The nonprofit corporation gives youngsters of scouting and church organizations seagoing experience under charter arrangements during summers and winter weekends.

The *Adventuress* was built for \$100,000 in East Boothbay, Me., for W. S. Borden, the canned-milk millionaire of Chicago. He brought her around The Horn, took her to Alaska, then sold her to the San Francisco ship pilots in her second year.

Fire from an engine compartment swept her below decks in 1915, but the hull remained intact. Among parts lost was the bowsprit which was replaced yesterday.

It glided into its slots without a hitch, thanks to the power lifter at Shilshole Bay Marina.

Don Ferguston, an artistic woodcarver and one of the mates, drew the specifications from old drawings of the *Adventuress*. He and 19-year-old Tim Mahrer and Bob Karlson hand-carved it using draw knives, planes, sandpaper and buckets of elbow grease.

THE SCHOONER is an oldtimer, but she's been through only five owners. Doc Freeman acquired and brought her to Seattle in 1952 with a five-man crew. He sold her to Reault shortly thereafter. She then went to Morton and Youth Adventure.

Kathleen McKoon, a wee freckled girl of 21 with a firm handclasp, is the ship's historian and only deck girl.

She knows the ship's past — did, in fact, spend part of August in San Francisco to research the ship's history. But the records, alas, are few in quantity. The San Francisco Pilots' files went up in smoke one disastrous night.

Miss McKoon covered the San Francisco waterfront with inquiries and managed to dig up a few old photos of the *Explorer* in her prime. Old San Francisco newspaper files also contributed to the ship's annals.

Miss McKoon, a history major at the U. W., also has studied journalism. She fits in well as the ship's historian and chronicler.

She wears patched blue jeans and denim shirt about the decks and pitches in with the chores.

"The guys have dubbed me The Deck Wench," she quipped.

