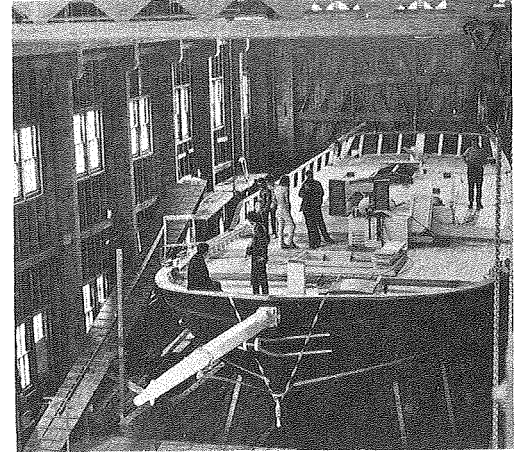
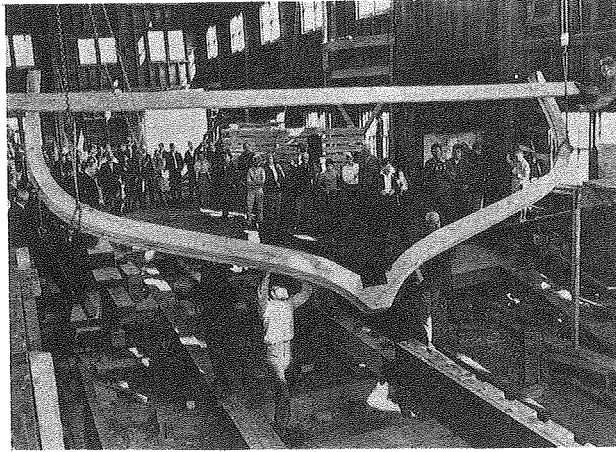


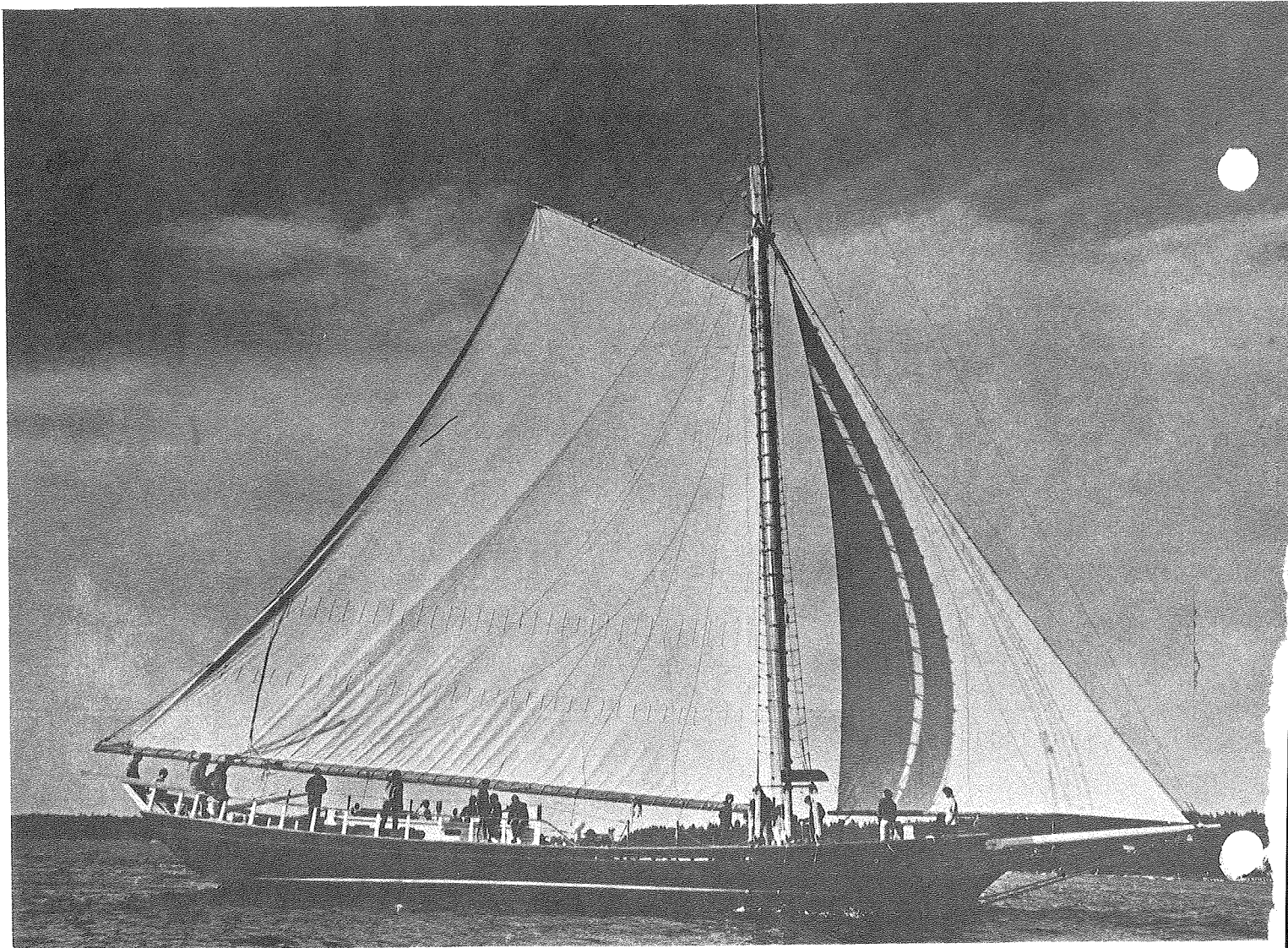
Hudson River Schooner

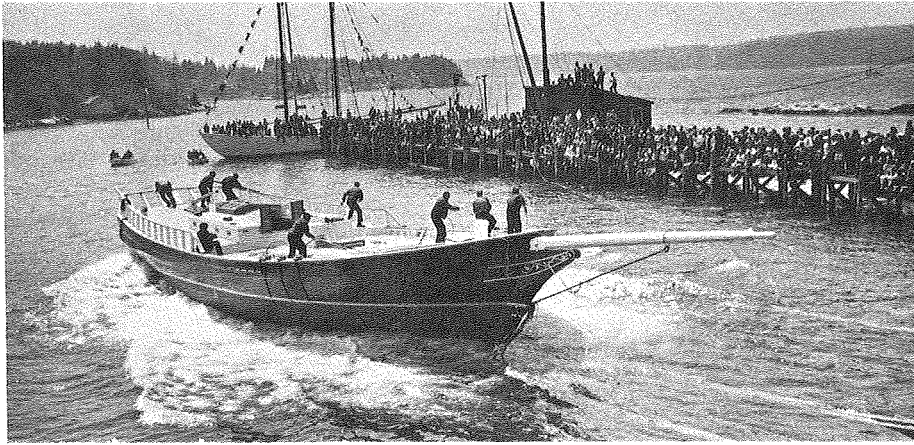
Newport Folk Festival-1969 (July)

Photos by Julie Snow and Willman



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS





THE SLOOP CLEARWATER, THE NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL, AND YOU

As we come together again for a few days of music, singing, and dancing, those of us who are close to the festival are particularly proud of an achievement of one of our members. A year ago, on the day after the Festival, at a meeting of the Board of Directors and Trustees, Pete and Toshi Seeger presented us with a request for assistance in a new project. The project was the building of a Hudson River sloop just like those which regularly plied the river a century ago. The boat, which would be called Clearwater, would serve as a Hudson River Museum afloat, carrying original cargoes and artifacts of her period and the history of the Hudson River Valley to all of the residents up and down the river. In addition, the boat would be a symbol of a time when the river was clean, when its natural beauty was not marred by its usefulness, and when the river banks were a source of pleasure to those who lived on them. The Clearwater would be a symbol of all of that and more, for it would be built by the contributions of the people of the Valley and their friends, and it would be a testimony to their efforts to better

their world and, hopefully, would encourage others to do the same.

The Sloop project combined romance with practicality, fun with education. All that was needed was some money to get it started. With some of the profits from the festival just concluded, we gave the Sloop Restoration Corporation a \$10,000.00 loan. With this to prime the pump, other large contributions came in (\$10,000 from the Rockefeller Family Fund, \$10,000 from Lila Acheson Wallace of Reader's Digest, and \$10,000 from the Boscobel Foundation), but more than \$145,000 would be needed to complete the sloop. With a confidence matched by few, Pete turned to the people of the Valley. Throughout the winter he and other performers toured the Valley giving concerts. Arlo Guthrie, Bernice Reagon, Olatunji, Rev. Kirkpatrick, Grant Rogers, and many others joined in these concerts, and in all of these cities and towns Sloop Clubs began to spring up. These Clubs, in turn, put on local hoots to raise money, and formed committees to make plans for the day when the Clearwater would actually put in at the town dock.

Every town would want to put

on a celebration when the sloop came. Townspeople could join the singing crew of the Sloop (including such as Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Don McClean, Len Chandler, and Lou Killen) and put on a show at the dock. People would be invited to come onto the Sloop and see it at close hand. Above all, it would bring communities together at the river's edge where they could get to know each other and their river a little better. Hopefully, they would start to think a little about what fun they had had, start to take some pride in who they are and where they are and do something about it right in their own towns, starting with a real effort to clean up the river itself.

As you can see by the pictures, the Sloop Clearwater has become a reality. While sloop members were out raising the money, the keel was laid and work begun at the Harvey F. Gamage shipyard in South Bristol, Maine. On Saturday, May 18, 3500 people went up to see the Clearwater launched, and now the sloop has started on its voyages. While it is here with us in Newport take the time to go down to the dock by the Goat Island causeway and pay her a visit. When you go back to wherever you come from, think about the Clearwater from time to time. Think about the air you breathe, the water in the lakes and rivers nearby, and decide to do something about it. That is the real dream behind the Clearwater: that we will all begin to think of this land as our land and begin to take care of it.

P. S. If you would like to become a member of the Hudson River Sloop Restoration, Inc., write P. O. Box 265, Cold Spring, N. Y. 10516 Membership, \$10. Students, \$5.

