

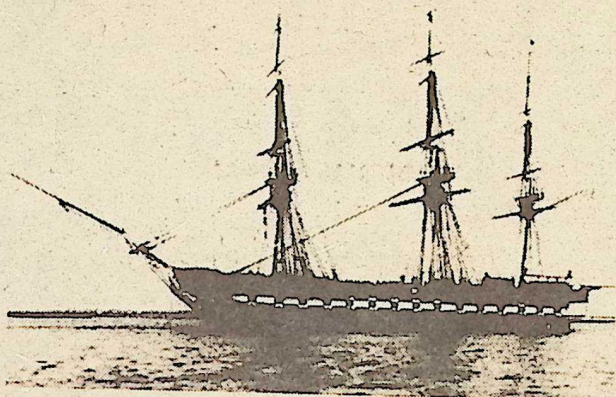
village view

by Andrea Leonard

Of all the Bicentennial activities, the one that's the most exciting to me is the Tall Ships Races and Parades and Open Ships for the public.

Between forty and fifty ships from thirteen countries are pitching and rolling through the combers of the Atlantic Ocean, bound for a rendezvous in Newport, Rhode Island, before sailing to New York for a July 4th arrival. There they will participate in that city's Bicentennial celebration.

Thousands of spectators watched the great ships depart



The U.S.S. Constitution, oldest commissioned warship in the world, will be host vessel for Operation Sail Boston 1976. "Old Ironsides" will greet the Tall Ships off Deer Island in Boston's Outer Harbor. She'll fire her cannon in salute for the first time since the War of 1812. The tall ships will be open to the public in Boston from July 11-14, from 2-7 p.m.

from Plymouth, England, early in May. Thousands more will wish them safe journey as they come, via Tenerife in the Canary Islands, on to Bermuda, and finally to Newport around the middle of June.

Each leg of the voyage is a separate race and on each leg more ships join; by the time they all gather in Narragansett Bay, it's expected the fleet will number nearly ninety from twenty-three countries.

The Tall Ships Races are held every two years, and at least fifty per cent of each crew taking part must be between 16 and 25 years of age. The major trophy, a silver model of the famous clipper ship, "Cutty Sark", is currently held by the 3,185-ton Russian square rigger, "Kruzeshtern".

Late in June the fleet will set sail from Newport, and upon arrival in New York harbor will join in a grand parade of ships. When the fleet comes in, President Ford will be among those watching this part of the American Bicentennial activities.

Operation Sail will highlight the Bicentennial celebration. The event, never before equalled in magnitude, will be covered by world-wide television. Millions of people everywhere will see it.

When Operation Sail completes its visit at Gotham, many of the ships will proceed up the coast to Boston where Operation Sail Boston 1976 will mark New England's largest Bicentennial celebration.

Operation Sail Boston 1976 is sponsored by a nonprofit, non-governmental organization of maritime, yachting, business and civic leaders in cooperation with the Sail Training Association of London.

Because it will probably be the most spectacular single performance of the Bicentennial in New England, many major municipal, regional and state agencies have become involved.

The Operation Sail Boston Committee has brought together such agencies as the Navy, Coast Guard, Massachusetts National Guard, Boston Police and Fire Departments, Mass. Port Authority, the MBTA, Boston 200, and offices of Governor Dukakis and Mayor White.

Many private groups, including the Boston Pilots

Association, Boston Tow Boat Company, IBM, the Sheraton Corporation, the First National Bank of Boston, several city hotels and many yachting organizations in the Boston region, have agreed to donate services, personnel and funds.

More than twenty nations are taking part in Operation Sail Boston 1976, including two huge Russian vessels, the "Tovarich", a 275-foot square rigger, and the trophy-holder, the 378-foot "Kruzeshtern", the largest of the world's sailing vessels.

Eighteen of the vessels are longer than 100 feet; 29 will be in the 50 to 90 foot range. There will be 14 vessels from the United States, 13 from Great Britain, seven each from Poland and West Germany, and five from the Netherlands. Other nations represented will include Portugal, Spain, Norway, Italy, France, and Canada.

Henry Dormitzer, chairman of Operation Sail Boston 1976 and "skipper" of the six-day event, says, "Such a collection of sail hasn't been seen in Boston harbor since the 1870s."

More than 4,000 sun-bronzed cadets, officers and crewmen will be coming to Boston aboard these craft.

Foreign consuls from many of the participating nations met recently with officials of Operation Sail Boston 1976 at Boston Marine Society Headquarters to discuss housing and entertaining the estimated 4,000 cadets and crewmen of the foreign vessels, and to plan for ethnic families that speak their languages to assist in orienting the young sailors while they are Boston's guests.

The group also discussed the possible closing of the port during the parade of ships, safety patrols by the Coast Guard, Boston Tow Boat service for the larger vessels, and docking facilities at Massport.

Boston — agencies, corporations and individuals alike — is pitching in wholeheartedly to support the visit of the tall ships. Massport has offered its piers, water, power, trash disposal and general maintenance of the ships while they are dockside.

Boston Tow Boat Company is providing six tugs to move the large vessels to docks at the Army base, and the Boston Pilots Association has volunteered pilots for the ships.

The Sheraton Corporation has donated office space and furnishings for the duration. IBM is providing typewriters in addition to financing the film now being shown to private groups and on TV concerning Operation Sail. Much of the promotional literature expense is being borne by John Hancock Life Insurance Company.

The U.S.S. Constitution is expected to take an honored part; she will be moved to an anchorage in the lower harbor to welcome the armada of visiting tall ships and other craft, including the royal yacht of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

As host vessel, the "Constitution" will fire her cannon in salute. It will be the first time the cannon has been fired since the War of 1812.

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy training ship, "Bay State", will join historic "Old Ironsides" in welcoming the Bicentennial procession of tall ships in the massive sailing salute to the nation's 200th birthday.

The "Bay State" as official reviewing ship will carry New England's governors, city and maritime officials.

Rear Admiral Lee Harrington, Academy president, said the training ship, freshly painted from its annual overhaul, will move from its dock at Commonwealth Pier to Boston's outer harbor. There she will head the line of visiting sailing ships, naval craft and other vessels participating in the marine parade.

On July 11, the day following this marine extravaganza, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip are scheduled to arrive in Boston aboard the royal yacht "Britannica". The royal party, who will have been visiting Charlottesville, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York, will spend one day in Boston before sailing on to Halifax, Nova Scotia, to open the Olympic Games in Canada.

While in Boston, the royal party will re-dedicate the Old State House and review the cadets and crewmen of the sailing vessels as they line up between the Old State House and Boston's new City Hall where a reception in the Queen's honor is planned.

(This is part one of a two-part article concerning Operation Sail. See Village View next week for details of the part to be played by the "Bay State", the Mass. Maritime Academy Training Ship, in the celebration; in addition, the "Westward", another Cape Cod vessel, will play its own special part, and that story, too, will be included in next week's article.)