

village view

by Andrea Leonard

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy Training Ship, "Bay State", will serve in Operation Sail Boston as the official reviewing ship, and she'll carry New England's governors, as well as city and marine officials.

Together with the U.S.S. Constitution, the "Bay State" will meet the ships in Boston's outer harbor and head the line of visiting sailing ships as they come into Boston in the grand marine parade.

Prior to this occasion, however, the "Bay State" will take part in the Bicentennial celebrations throughout the month.

On June 14 she will sail from Buzzards Bay enroute to Bermuda to serve as the official communication vessel for the American Sail Training Association race from Bermuda to Newport. That race, beginning on Sunday, June 20, will terminate at Newport on June 25.

The races over, the "Bay State" will then join in Operation Sail in New York. Leaving Newport on July 1 and anchoring near Governor's Island in New York harbor, the Massachusetts ship will be joined by the training ships from Maine and New York, and the Coast Guard Academy vessel, the "Eagle".

After the July 4 procession of ships, the "Bay State" will tie up at a Manhattan pier and its cadets will join in the big parade of crews up Broadway on July 6.

The training ship will leave New York on July 8 and sail direct for Boston, passing through the Cape Cod Canal, saluting the Academy as she makes a non-stop voyage to Commonwealth Pier, arriving Friday, July 9.

Captain McNaughton said the festivities would end for the "Bay State" when she leaves Boston July 15 to return to Buzzards Bay. "During the following ten days we will operate out of Buzzards Bay, terminating our training period on July 26," Captain McNaughton said.

In addition to the "Bay State", another Cape Cod vessel participating is the "Westward", home port Woods Hole, and a schooner unique among the fleet.

Her year round purpose is oceanographic research and training. One of the very few U.S. flag school ships, "Westward" has a scientific mission to fulfill even during the 650-mile Tall Ships Race from Bermuda to Newport.

Dr. Athelstan Spilhaus will be aboard conducting a study of the Gulf Stream. Among the nation's foremost marine scientists, Dr. Spilhaus is the inventor of the bathythermograph, a widely-used oceanographic instrument.

Dr. Spilhaus and his associate, Dr. John Apel, work for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Both avid sailors, they will pay careful attention to information provided to all ships by NOAA and the U.S. Navy about the exact position of the mighty ocean current.

Historically the Gulf Stream has been a vital factor to ships on the passage between Bermuda and the East Coast of the United States. With an average speed of three to four knots, its position is constantly shifting, with circulation eddies spinning off into surrounding waters. Effective racing strategy requires knowledge of how to take advantage of these powerful natural forces.

Prior to the June 20 race start in Bermuda, Dr. Spilhaus will lead a seminar for the officers and cadets of the training ships about the Gulf Stream. A panel of scientists will discuss the biology and physics of northwestern Atlantic waters.

Other presentations will provide information about the current status of the Stream, a useful aid to navigators planning their strategies.

The seminar is sponsored, in part, by the Sea Education Association (SEA), which operates "Westward" in the SEA Semester program for college students participating in an intensive six-week shore course at Woods Hole. Their classes in marine science, maritime affairs, and nautical science provide an introduction to the sea. At completion of the shore course, the 22 young men and women then serve aboard "Westward" for six weeks as apprentice seamen and research assistants.

As their training progresses, the students are given increased responsibilities in all aspects of the vessel's operation. Offered several times a year, the entire program leads to a full semester's academic credit.

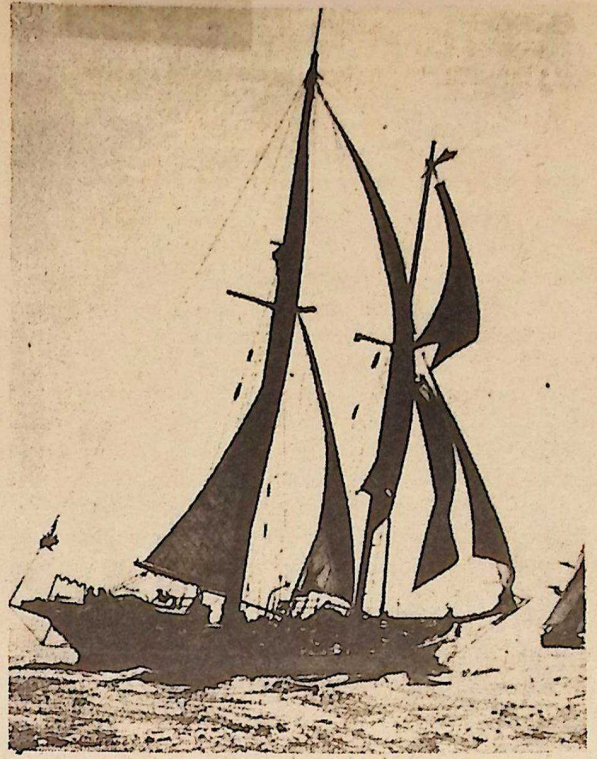
Based in Woods Hole, SEA is now in its fifth year of operating the "Westward". Dr. Spilhaus, a member of the non-profit organization's Board of Trustees, is only one of more than fifty scientists who have made use of the schooner's research capabilities.

"Westward", built in 1961, is steel-hulled and carries some 7,000 square feet of sail. Her modern equipment includes a 350-horse power diesel auxiliary, three generators, a complete electronics outfit, hydrographic winch, and scientific gear. She's a 116-foot stay-sail schooner and normally carries a crew of 28.

A safe and sturdy North Sea Pilot design by Eldredge and McInnis, "Westward" averages some 20,000 miles at sea each year. Under SEA's flag she has provided the opportunity for some 450 students to learn, first-hand, about the ocean's environment.

Of the 69-craft flotilla slated to visit Boston in July, the tallest of the tall ships is the Russian square rigger, "Kruzeshtern", a 378' barque with a crew of 300. Another Russian ship in the group is the "Tovarich", a barque of 270 feet.

Among ships from other nations will be the 333' Italian



Research Vessel Westward, home port Woods Hole, will participate in the Bermuda to Newport Tall Ships Race. The 125' tops'l schooner will conduct a study of the Gulf Stream en route, and training classes will be given to students preceding the race itself.

vessel, "Amerigo Vespucci", with a crew of 125, and from Spain, the "Juan Sebastian de Elcano", a tops'l schooner 304' long with a crew of 407.

The "Dar Pomorza", a barque of 277', and the tops'l schooner "Zawisza Czarny", 118' long with a crew of 35, are Polish.

The 266' Portuguese barque "Sagres II" carries a crew of 203, while the Norwegian ship "Christian Radich", is 256' long with a crew of 250.

The British schooner "Sir Winston Churchill" is 135' long and has a crew of 43; the Swedish gaff schooner, the "Gladan", is 134' long with 34 in her crew. Antigua's barquentine "Barba Negra" is 110' long and manages with a crew of 12.

Other United States ships participating are the tops'l schooner "Regina Maris", 144' in length; the "Bill of Rights", a tops'l schooner 141' long with a crew of 78; the "Unicorn", a 140' brig with a crew of 24; the schooner "Roseway", 135' long carrying a crew of 20; the 120' tops'l schooner "Perseus", crewed by 15; as well as the 104' schooner "Double Eagle", with a crew of 15.

During their stay in Boston, berthed at Army Base Pier parallel to the Castle Island Pier, the square riggers and tall ships will be open for public visits every day from 2-7 p.m., July 11-14.

Those of you who can't visit Boston's waterfront, but would like to see the tall ships under way, may get a glimpse of them as they come through the Cape Cod Canal enroute from New York to Boston, July 8th, 9th, and 10th.

Bring a picnic lunch, a fishing pole and some bait, and set yourself up along the bank to await the parade of tall ships as they come through the canal; some, it is said, are too tall to pass under the bridges, but most will use the canal in sailing between the two cities.

It should be a sight worth seeing and one not soon to be forgotten.