

# COVEY ISLAND BOATWORKS

Custom Wood/Epoxy Builders: Sail & Power



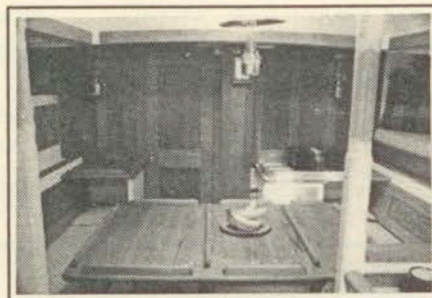
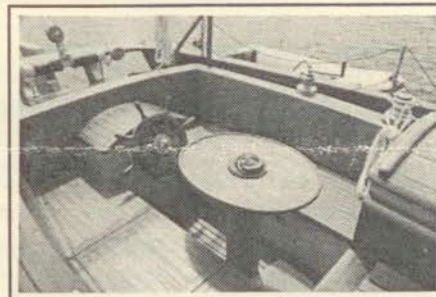
Photos: above: *Alice Wragg* underway off LaHave, Nova Scotia this summer [Mark Simkins]; above, right: *Alice Wragg's* cockpit [Phyllis Price]; right: *Alice Wragg's* all-but-finished saloon [Phyllis Price]

## 40' Alice Wragg, 51' Eleanor Mary

### Two Westernman Cutters Named to Year's "Top 50 American Custom Sailboats"

Two Nigel Irens WESTERNMAN designs have been listed among the year's "Top 50 American Custom Sailboats" in the 1999 edition of *American Yacht Review* (AYR) published by *Ocean Navigator*.

Both cutters, WESTERNMAN 40 *Alice Wragg* and WESTERNMAN 51 *Eleanor Mary*, were built in wood/epoxy by Covey Island Boatworks, the exclusive builder of WESTERNMAN 40 designs.



*Alice Wragg* is the focus of a four-page feature article in the *Review*. The subhead reads "A proud-rigged, ocean-capable deep draft cutter." The piece was written by AYR managing editor Twain Braden, who was able to participate in the cutter's sea trials in May. In the article Braden describes WESTERNMAN designs as combining the great looks of a traditional boat with the advantage of superior modern materials.

### Strength of Hull Limits Damage

## Motorsailer "Junket" Takes Bump in Stride

Nearing her home port for the first time, recently launched 40' Spencer Lincoln motorsailer *Junket*, traveling at 5 knots, ran into a rock in Maine's Penobscot River.

The forward three inches of the starboard skeg were crushed. It was bent toward the centre line of the hull. However, the strength of the composite wood/epoxy hull prevented any damage to the drive train, steering or internal mechanisms which were protected by the skeg.

Dykstra had crossed the Bay of Fundy

*Eleanor Mary* was launched June, 1998, for a North Yorkshire (U.K.) customer, who had her built as a sail training vessel. *Alice Wragg*, the third WESTERNMAN 40, was launched this May for a Bristol (U.K.) couple (see page 2).

WESTERNMAN designs were inspired by the turn-of-the-century Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter. The intent of the series is a fast, fine-looking cruising yacht that a small crew can handle in comfort. Wood/epoxy construction by Covey Island Boatworks provides a high level of durability and low maintenance.

All versions offer custom accommodation. ☺

after Covey Island Boatworks launched the boat in May. He felt the Nova Scotia coast too rocky for sea trials.

The owner is finishing and rigging the shallow draft (2' 11") boat himself. ☺

### The Order Book

— Recently Launched —

- 40' motorsailer *Junket*
- WESTERNMAN 40 *Alice Wragg*

— Under Construction —

- WESTERNMAN 40 *Chance*
- 50' motoryacht *Kamarea*



*Westernman 40 Chance under construction, August, 1999. [Photo Eric Hustvedt]*

## In the Spotlight

Covey Island Boatworks and the yard's boats continue to attract media attention in the U.S., U.K. and Canada.

In addition to recognition for WESTERNMAN designs in the *American Yacht Review* (see front page), recent coverage has included the story, "Covey Island to build Giles-designed Dyarchy" in the "New Yachts" section of the June 1999 *Yachting World*.

*Atlantic Boating News* for August '99 included the article "Westernman: updating a Classic" while their March '99 issue included the article "And now for something completely different..." on the 40' Spencer Lincoln junk-rigged schooner launched by Covey Island in May.

Photojournalist Kathy Mansfield visited the yard and Alice Wragg on assignment for *Water Craft* in August.

Glen Cairns of *Atlantic Boating News* and Twain Braden of *Ocean Navigator* accepted invitations to sea trials for **Alice Wragg** in May. ☺

### John & Valerie Gillespie of Alice Wragg

## Owners Make Themselves at Home in Nova Scotia

The original idea was to complete finishing work after launch in May and spend a couple of weeks in sea trials. Then WESTERNMAN 40 **Alice Wragg** owners John and Valerie Gillespie would sail down the US east coast and overwinter their boat in the Chesapeake Bay area.

However, the Bristol, England, couple were enjoying Nova Scotia so much that September had arrived before their departure.

"The people are so nice and the area is so beautiful," says Valerie, "we haven't seen any point in going anywhere else." Extended sea trials have included trips to Cape Breton and Halifax.

one-year term as Covey Island's managing director, says "The Gillespies are solid evidence that a connection with Nova Scotia is a real benefit of ordering a Covey Island boat."

**Alice Wragg** was also part of this year's Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival, where she was first across the line in the Festival Regatta and earned a "Bristol Sail" award.

The cutter was also first across the line at the Martins River Regatta. ☺

### Yard expands Floor Space by 20%

## Plant Expands for Smoother Operation

The Boatworks can now accommodate bigger vessels, following an expansion that saw floor space increase by 20%. The expansion also created a separate, self-contained spar loft, a paint room, more storage space and more office space.

Colin O'Toole, the CIB Director who oversaw the project, says the changes have created a much better working environment. "It's now a more comfortable place for everyone to get their jobs done."

Colin says one of the features he appreciates is the view of the main bay from a loft outside the

new office he shares with Logistics Coordinator Tom Richard.

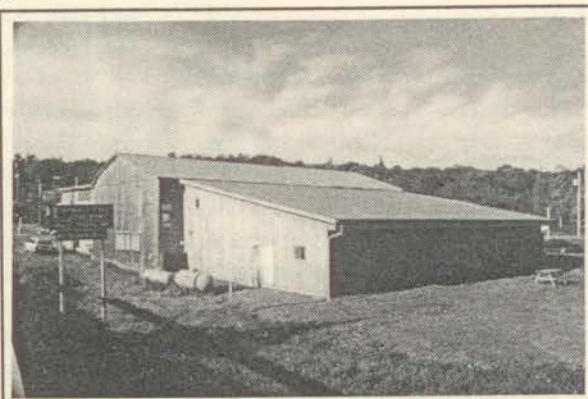
Contractor for the work was Shoreside Carpentry of LaHave. ☺

### Thank you, Brock!

Many thanks to Brock Junkin, who took on the title "Managing Director" during the year Covey Island president John Steele was sailing with his family.

Brock put the company first during his tenure and postponed or cancelled several of his own projects to carry out the job.

A retired certified management accountant, Brock returns to his position as a Director and the Financial Officer for the company. ☺



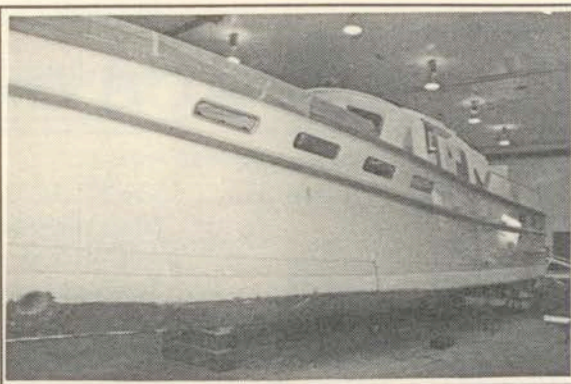
## Around the Yard

Carvel Tefft of Portsmouth, NH, was in contention in the Marblehead to Halifax Race in June when the 63-year-old Sitka spruce mast of his 45' sloop **Bangalore** failed near Lockeport, NS. On the advice of the Royal Naval Yacht Squadron in Halifax, he contacted Covey Island Boatworks for assistance.

A CIB crew unstepped the 45' hollow composite spar and brought it to the yard. The mast had failed eighteen inches from the top, freeing its top fitting.

Troy Varner and James Falvey cut the mast back an additional foot, then filled it with fir for strength. After they scarfed on a new piece of Sitka spruce to regain its original length, the repaired section was wrapped in carbon fibre, vacuum

50' Dave Gerr shoal draft motoryacht **Kamarea**, September, 1999  
[Photo Eric Hustvedt]



bagged sanded and repainted. The top fitting was refastened. The crew took the repaired spar back to Lockeport, where they resteped it. They also replaced a spreader and straightened a few lines on the vessel.

The 27' Spencer Lincoln V-Bottom cruiser **Pamela D.**, launched by Covey Island Boatworks in 1993, has recently been purchased by a part-time resident of Riverport. The vessel was in the shop in early fall for cosmetic changes for her new owner. ☺

*John Steele reports*

## Lessons Learned: A Year of Cruising on *Marguerite T*

*Yard president John Steele has returned from a year of sailing with his family on the restored 106-year-old original Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter **Marguerite T**. He reported from the Caribbean in the spring newsletter.*

*Where have you been the last few months?*

We finished off the winter by racing again in the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta, then crossed the Atlantic to Ireland via Bermuda and the Azores.

At Antigua **Marguerite T** was voted "3rd Most Beautiful Boat" to visit their waters this year. She finished behind two \$20 million US boats, **Endeavor** and a Bruce King design. She also won the award for "Best Restoration."

The passage to the Azores included some heavy weather: 35 knot easterlies

and big seas. This resulted in three 200-mile days. One of those days we were hove to for two hours!

During that passage we were constantly impressed with how **Marguerite T** handled the weather and made us feel comfortable and safe.

We sailed the west and south coasts of Ireland, which were surprisingly savage and wild, then crossed the Irish Sea.

The Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter races at Bristol were the highlight of my year away. It was the first visit by **Marguerite T** to her home port in eighty years. The original Pilot Cutters were competing for the Barry Pilots Trophy in a race which **Marguerite T** had never lost.

Of eight originals still afloat, five  
*continued, back page*

## "Brokerage"

*Covey Island Boatworks will assist owners of Covey Island boats in selling their boats. The company will not otherwise act as a broker.*

Having completed the global circumnavigation for which she was built, 70' Ted Brewer gaff schooner **Tree of Life.**, built by Covey Island Boatworks, 1991, is now on the market. She is currently lying in the U. K., soon bound for the Caribbean. Asking \$1.35 million (US).

For sale: 38' ketch **Annie J.**  
Built by Covey Island Boatworks, 1986.  
Extensive refit by builder, 1998.  
Surveyed by Cecil Heisler, 1999.  
\$135,000 (Cdn). The vessel is currently under cover at Heisler's Boatyard near Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia.

For further information on either vessel, contact Covey Island Boatworks. ☺

## Boat Show Report

Colin O'Toole and Troy Varner represented the yard at the recent Newport International Boat Show in Rhode Island, Sept. 16-19. They reported a good response to the Covey Island Exhibit, despite cancellation of half the days of the show due to tropical storm Floyd.

Earlier in the summer Larry Weagle and Troy Varner attended the annual trade show sponsored by *WoodenBoat Magazine*, this year at St. Michael's, MD, June 25-27. ☺

*Lessons Learned, from p. 3*

showed up for the first race only to face 40 knot winds and 40' tidal currents. We finished 12 minutes ahead of the favoured Peggy even though we blew out our number two jib. Only three boats finished the 16 mile course.

On the south coast of Cornwall we participated in the Fowey and Falmouth regattas and saw the total eclipse of the sun over Cornwall from the Helford River. **Marguerite T** is now lying at Cowes on the Isle of Wight and is now on the market.

I've been phenomenally lucky to sail on **Marguerite T** with family and friends and I look forward to applying what I've learned. I've had a year experiencing first-hand the difference between drawings on paper and living on a boat in its real world.

I think every builder and designer should spend time sailing and I wish I had done so earlier in my career. This is even more important today than it would have been for designers and builders years ago because of the increasing complexity of rigs and systems. There is no substitute for first hand experience.

As for Marguerite T, I have been just one of many players in her long history. I look forward to seeing what is to come for her. After a while, I expect I'll build another boat.....perhaps a schooner. ☺

New website address:

[www.coveyisland.com](http://www.coveyisland.com)

### Newsletter "Subscriptions"

If you have received a couple of editions of the newsletter and would like to continue receiving it, let us know by phone, fax, mail or email ([marketing@coveyisland.com](mailto:marketing@coveyisland.com)).

If you have been receiving the newsletter for several years, you are on our permanent list and we will continue sending it until you tell us to stop. ☺

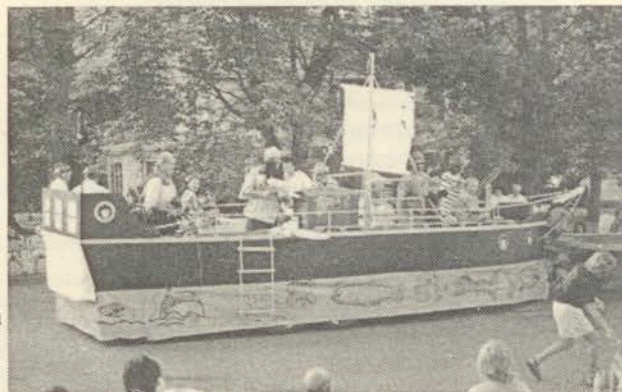
### In Local Parades

## Yet Another Covey Island Boat Wins Awards!

The 24' (LOD) truck-drawn pirate ship sloop **Rrrr Mai T** has won two awards at local Nova Scotia festivals.

The multi-wheeled, shallow draft vessel won the first prize in the commercial category in the South Shore Exhibition parade in late July. The first prize earned \$100 and a first place ribbon. Two hundred floats participated in the procession as it wound its way through residential and business sections of Bridgewater.

Days later, **Rrrr Mai T** won "Most Artistic Float" — and \$25 — in the



*Rrrr Mai T makes her way through residential Bridgewater. (Photo: Kimberley Weagle)*

Mahone Bay Wooden Boat Festival.

The float was built at the yard on a recently purchased flat-bed trailer. Dave McAdoo co-ordinated the float committee. ☺

## COVEY ISLAND BOATS are brought to you by...

John Steele - President/ Director  
Larry Weagle - Supervisor/ Director  
Colin O'Toole - Supervisor/ Director  
Brock Junkin - Financial Officer/ Director  
John Clark - Shipwright/ Director (for 1999)

Keith Daigle - Boatbuilder  
James Falvey - Shipwright  
David Holmes - Shipwright  
Rodney Levy - Boatbuilder, System Technician  
Raymond Marshall - Interior Joinery  
Dave McAdoo - System Technician  
Tom Richard - Logistics Co-ordinator  
Jeff Robar - Painter, Joinery  
Michael Smitherman - Boatbuilder  
Terry Sundbo - Shipwright  
Tim Swinamer - Boatbuilder  
Bruce Thompson - Boatbuilder  
Troy Varner - Boatbuilder, Spar Technician  
Richard Weagle - Boatbuilder  
Robert Wentzell - General Maintenance  
Todd Wheeler - Boatbuilder  
Richard Zinn - Boatbuilder

Kimberley Weagle - Office Manager  
Matt Tipert - Purchasing Manager  
Darcy Frampton - Shipper/Receiver  
Eric Hustvedt - Marketing Manager  
Madelyn O'Toole - Administrative Assistant

Local Suppliers  
Robin Benjamin - Seamstress  
Robert Falls, Joinery  
Tom Gallant, Rigger  
Peter Tanner, Stand Fast Fittings