



# MYSTIC SEAPORT MUSEUM®

DEDICATED TO AMERICA'S MARITIME HERITAGE

February 5, 1980

I am pleased that the Off-Soundings Club has chosen to meet at Mystic Seaport again this year. We've been working to improve the museum's exhibits, and there are a number of changes since last April.

**Schaefer Gallery:** Part of the celebration of our fiftieth birthday is the second in our series of 50 Years of Collecting exhibits. Entitled "The Years of Expansion, 1945-1964," it shows some of the wide variety of items that came to the museum during the period when it grew from a small historical society to the museum of today. During this time, the museum acquired most of its property and its village buildings. Attendance went from 15,000 in 1946 to over 300,000 in 1964. The collections expanded into many new areas; the topical arrangement reflects some of these.

**New Shoreham Life-Saving Station:** Interior work is now complete, and it has been equipped with its life-saving equipment including a beach cart, surf boat, and life car. The mess room is set up, and new labels, diagrams and photographs bring home the life and times of the surfman.

**General Store:** The General Store underwent a major transformation last spring. With a completely revamped interior, including new shelves and cabinets, and a collection refined to reflect a grocery and hardware store of about 1875, Stone's Store has been taken back in time. New exterior signs reflect an era when sign painting was an art.

**Shipyard:** With the completion of replanking the forward port side of the CHARLES W. MORGAN, our shipwrights have begun the same job on the starboard side. A new canopy has been completed for the SABINO, the last stage in her restoration. GLORY ANNA II is in the shop having her stem replaced, and BRILLIANT is on the lift dock being recaulked.

**Small Boat Shop:** We've completed the construction and sale of eleven Rangeley Lake boats and are in the midst of building

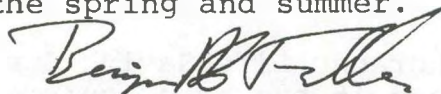
a series of fine sail boats called melon seeds. These are elegant little gunning boats which originated in the Egg Harbor area of New Jersey.

Model Restoration Shop: Those of you who have been visiting the Seaport over the years are aware that things move around. In this case our model storage is moving - to the third floor of the Stillman Building, where it will be part of a new ship model exhibit. This will give us a chance to bring out some of the museum's finer models and will give a permanent home to the popular Law Collection of miniature models.

In the Village: The bank, the chapel, and the schoolhouse have received new labels. New labels are also going into the ropewalk, the print shop and the sail loft. By April, the ropewalk should also be housing a new working model demonstrating the rope making process.

Lobstering Exhibit: To the west of the AUSTRALIA shed we are erecting a lobstering exhibit based on Noank's waterfront prior to the hurricane of 1938. It will feature a shack, piles of lobster pots and buoys, a ramp into the water to launch skiffs, and a lobster car. The EMMA C. BERRY will be moved off shore.

I know your time is limited, but hope you can get back to visit the Seaport later on in the spring and summer.



Benjamin A. G. Fuller  
Curator

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