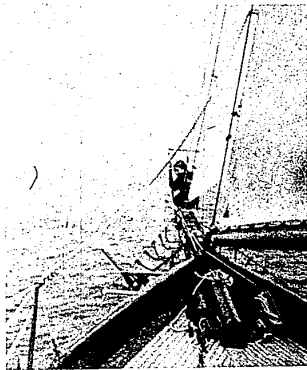




CAPTAIN FRANCIS BOWKER gives some orders to Girl Scout Louise Fisher, at the wheel of the Brilliant.



KATHY FLYNN felt pretty small when she had to take a turn on the bowsprit.



SMALL BOATS were launched for trips to town when the Brilliant anchored at sunset.



m. m. memos

An old book given me by my aunt contains some of the most fascinating reading I've encountered in a long time.

It had belonged to her aunt, who received it as a birthday present by HER "affectionate aunt" in December 1867, and the pages are appropriately yellowed and brittle.

But the title is "Enquire Within For Every-thing," and I guess the ladies of a century ago really did. At any rate, there are 2,520 separate matters you could "enquire" about, with general topics ranging from bird - and bee-keeping through medication and minor complaints to tables of insurance.

Opening at random, I came upon such sensible tidbits as "It is asserted, and we believe with some truth, that singing is a corrective of the too common tendency of pulmonary complaints," "keeping the feet warm will prevent headaches," and "allowing children to talk incessantly is a mistake."

There was one item that may have aroused women's libbers of the day: "Moneys paid to a married woman, though for her own services, may be claimed by her husband."

There were a few reasons to be thankful I'm a housewife now instead of then. Such as:

"In winter, get the work forward by day to prevent running about at night with candles; thus you escape grease spots and the danger of fire."

"Wax may be taken out of cloth by holding a red-hot iron within an inch or two of the marks and afterwards rubbing them with a soft, clean rag." (I prefer today's iron and paper towels.)

"One flannel petticoat will wear nearly as long as two if turned with the behind part before when the front begins to wear thin."

(Guess the ladies then didn't sit down a great deal - in our time the behind seems to wear out before the before.)

And "to ascertain whether a bed needs to be aired, introduce a glass goblet between the sheets for a minute just when the warming pan is taken out; if the bed be dry, there will be only a slight cloudy appearance on the glass, but if not the damp of the bed will assume the more formidable appearance of drops, the warning of danger."

Definitely, I'm glad I'm in this century.

— MARGARET MILLER

Senior Scouts Take To Sea

Sailing, sailing, is a tradition with the Senior Girl Scouts of Mariner Troop 1176 in Redford Township.

They've been going to sea at Mystic Seaport, Conn. for more summers than anyone presently connected with the troop can count for sure.

And this year's New England delegation, which recently returned from a glorious week on the Atlantic aboard the 64-foot sailing vessel Brilliant, is as enthusiastic as any that has gone before.

Eight girls in the troop, advisor Dorothy Brown of Livonia, and Mrs. Brown's daughter, Suzanne, an

alumnae of Troop 1176, went on the trip this year. Last summer the entire troop, 38 girls strong and filling a chartered bus, traveled to Mystic Seaport for a training sail aboard the Joseph Conrad.

Troop 1176 has been a regular participant in the sailing program sponsored for young people by the Mystic Seaport Association.

Mrs. Barbara Hall, Mrs. Brown's predecessor as advisor when she was a girl scout in northwest Detroit. She took over the troop eight years ago.

"Since then," Mrs. Brown said, "we've gone every year except for a couple when we couldn't get reservations. It's one of the things the troop really looks forward to."

Sailors this year were Louise Fisher, Kathy Flynn, Judy Leith, Stephanie Hoyer, Karen Foglesong, Karen Salento, Denise Michaels and Renee Poupet.

They took off by car July 15 and were aboard the Brilliant from July 16 to 20.

All served as crew for Capt. Francis Bowker, who has been with the Mystic Seaport program for 10 years, and Mate Jan Miles.

On board they took care of cleaning the Brilliant, raising and lowering its sails under the captain's direction, and the assorted other necessary duties on a sailing ship.

"We'd get up at six each morning," Louise said, "and a couple of girls would start to cook and a couple of others would wipe down the deck. Everyone else polished brass."

Occasionally the girls worked on cleaning salt off the outside of the hull.

They took turns in the watches aboard ship, and everyone had to spend an hour a day in the "pulpit" on the bowsprit up front.

"Kathy wasn't particularly happy about that duty, but she took her turn," Mrs. Brown said.

"This was not a new boat, so the pulpit isn't a seat like you see on the more recently-built ones. You just had to sit on the ropes, and climbing up is the bad part."

Louise had a few turns at the wheel, but because the waves were pretty high a good share of the time no one else tried that.

There was one day, they said, when the waves had the boat listing so much that water came up over their ankles. "No one was seasick, but a couple of the girls didn't show for lunch that day," said Mrs. Brown.

"And then there were times when we just sat and watched the pretty smooth water," she added. The Brilliant did have an auxiliary motor, but Capt. Bowker chose not to use it except in an emergency.

The girls did the cooking in the galley. But unlike many other Girl Scout outings, they

did not plan the menu. That is the mate's job aboard ship.

"We really ate well," they agreed.

Everyone also agreed the trip was "absolutely fantastic," and that, said Mrs. Brown, was a standard reaction.

"I've never taken a girl who wished she'd stayed home," she commented.

Applications already have been sent to Mystic Seaport so that Mariner Troop 1176 can go again next year.

Mrs. Brown said she hopes to take groups both for the training on the Conrad and again aboard the Brilliant.

"We'll have a lot of new girls in the troop ready to take the training," she said, "and there are some who went last year and still want a chance to sail the smaller boat."

Louise also is applying to work on the staff at Mystic Seaport next summer. If she does, she's likely to meet plenty of familiar shipmates from Redford.



EVERYONE JUMPED into the Atlantic for a dip one sunny afternoon...



...BUT IT WAS colder than it looked, and they couldn't get out fast enough. (Photos taken for the Observer by Mrs. Dorothy Brown)

'I Will Speak' Is Motto

By MARGARET MILLER

George Town of Redford Township lost his voice - box and his voice and had to learn to talk all over again.

Now he helps boost morale for others in the same situation and on the side tries to give kids the information that might keep them from getting into his predicament.

Town had cancer of the larynx, the part of the throat that produces the voice, and



GEORGE TOWN of Redford Township looks over the newsletter he edits. (Observer photo by Harry Mauthe)

In March of 1971 underwent a laryngectomy.

"The night before the surgery was the last time I talked as others do," he said. But he's learned to talk again - by esophageal speech that involves swallowing air through a hole in the esophagus, or windpipe, and using that organ to form the sounds.

He does it well. His esophageal speech comes out an only slightly - distorted version of the voice known before the surgery to family, friends and fellow workers in the Detroit bureau of the Associated Press.

Now retired from his AP maintenance job, Town uses his new voice a lot to help others who have had laryngectomies.

He serves as vice president of a club for laryngectomies in the metropolitan Detroit area. Its name is Anamilo (Greek for "I speak again.")

He edits the club's monthly newsletter, "Let's Talk." He pays frequent visits to the learn - to - speak school operated by the Michigan Cancer Foundation.

He also has visited Ford Junior High School in Westland - and stands ready to make similar visits to other schools - to tell students why he hopes they decide against becoming smokers.

"Me, a three - pack - a - day man prior to my laryngectomy," he laughs.

Town and his wife, Kay, have just returned from a trip to Los Angeles for the 22nd annual convention of the International Association of

Laryngectomies.

"Detroit's Anamilo Club was one of the organizers of the IAL," he said, "and Harold Algar, president three times and the man who taught me to speak, is a member of the international board of directors."

In a recent issue of "Let's Talk," Town wrote a bit about the local club for the benefit of new members and their relatives.

"We have better than 400 members," he noted, "with about 100 actively attending our monthly meetings. Our newsletter has a circulation of approximately 600."

"We are a dedicated group wanting to aid laryngectomies in this area in any way we can. We visit people prior to their surgery and afterwards, but only with the doctor's permission."

"We try to impress that we survived and that if we could learn to talk surely they should be able to. About 75 per cent return to work, the other 25 per cent taking retirement."

"Some members speak to student nurses, explaining the low morale a person feels when he finds himself speechless immediately after the operation."

"Some speak at 'don't smoke' clinics and to high school student groups about the aggravation cigarettes can cause to your larynx."

"We try to help people talk

Continued on Page 3C

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