

Chapter 7 – The Cruise of the *Catherine*

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The Cruise of the *Catherine* – 22-27 July 1946

One of most memorable Sea Scout events in the York-Adams Area Squadron in the immediate post-World War II period was the joint Chesapeake Bay cruise by Ships 17 and 37 onboard *Catherine*, a 72' gaff-rigged schooner.

On July 16, 1946, the *York Dispatch* reported that “The senior scouts of Sea Scout Ship 37 will hold their meeting tonight and formulate final plans for their five-day cruise next week on the Chesapeake Bay on a 90-foot schooner¹. This cruise will be under the supervision of the York-Adams Area Council, and the boys will go aboard ship next Monday morning at Annapolis, Md. Skipper Sol Singerman² will accompany his sea scouts on the cruise.”

A full-page spread on page 8 of The Gazette and Daily for Tuesday, August 6, 1946, begins to tell the story:³

York's Sea Scouts “Go Down to the Sea In Ships”

Most youngsters of today read with envy the tales of youth who served as ships' apprentices during the sailboat era, but a group of York boys recently had a real life chance to satisfy their appetites for salt water adventure.

Members of Sea Scout Ships 17 and 37 sailed the schooner, *Catherine*, center, on a five day cruise in the Chesapeake bay. Field Scout Executive James Lanning, Skippers David Glatfelter and Sol Singerman and Mate Herschel Leibowitz were in charge of the teenage crew.

Toured Naval Academy



Home port of the schooner is Annapolis, Md. After the trip was completed the officers and crew took time out for an extensive tour of the academy.

Pictured [left] are Skipper Glatfelter and Field Scout Executive Lanning leading their crew down an Annapolis walk.

While aboard ship, daily periods were devoted to instruction in sea safety, sailing, shipboard life rules of the sea, navigation, piloting, use of charts and running lights, sounding, signaling and elements of maritime law and usage.

¹ The schooner was in fact 72' in length.

² Sol Singerman was the first Scoutmaster of Troop 37 in December 1940 and served for one year until enlisting in the U.S. Army. Upon his return from military service, he became the Sea Scout Ship skipper.

³ Troop 37 Scrapbooks, Volume 4. Spelling and punctuation as per the original article.

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Sea Scouts Glen Landis, William Adams, Clair Spangler and Eli Minnich are shown [left] studying chart reading as Instructor Lanning points out details from his central position.

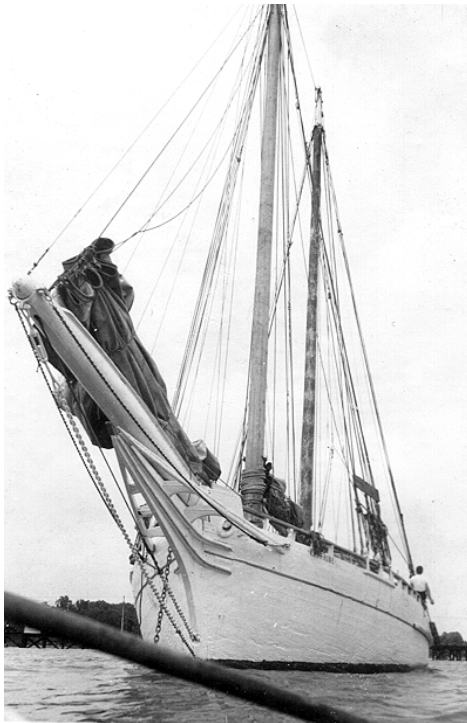
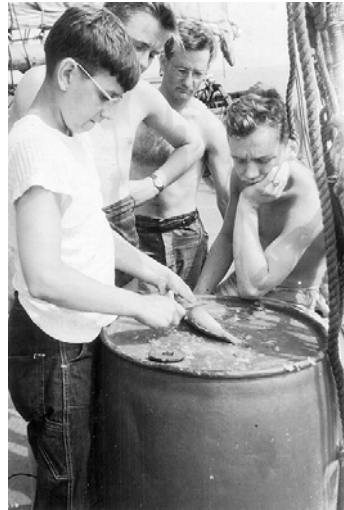
Members of the crew were each assigned to specific tasks during the cruise. Each Scout was responsible for stowing his personal gear and hammock, doing his own laundry and helping to clean his cabin. By two bells of the forenoon

watch, (9 a.m. in landlubber language), everything had to be shipshape.

24 Hour Watch

A constant lookout was posted midships. Scouts alternated in this position every two hours. In addition to serving as lookout, the boys had opportunities to be boatswain mates, yeomen, commissary officers, pharmacists, signalmen, sailmakers, storekeepers, carpenters, machinists, coxswain, watermen and cooks.

Scaling a freshly caught for the evening meal is Ships Cook Lester Rempel, [right] Glenn Landis, Allen Myers and Clair Spangler, seem intrigued, but are not offering to help.



The *Catherine* is a two masted gaff-rigged schooner, equipped with a jib, fore sail and mail sail. She is 72 feet long and has a 14 foot beam. The center photograph shows her in her full majesty.

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Shown [left], making sail on board her are Scout Executive Lanning, foreground. Sea Scouts Eli Minnich and Lamar Van Hying, center, and Skipper Sol Singerman, rear.

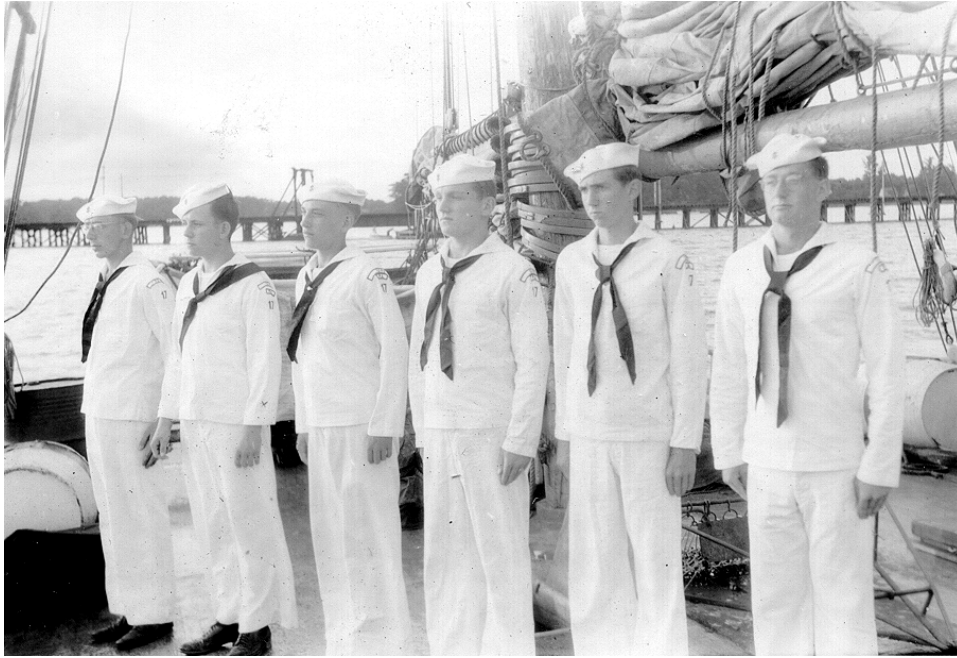
Daily Musters

Each morning and evening the crew mustered on deck for orders and inspection. Lower pictures show them in full uniform ready for shore leave.

In the usual order, [below] are members of Sea Scout Ship 37, Donald Yost, Richard Eisensmith, Thomas Reynold, Carl Van Hying, Lamar Van Hying, Glen Glass, Lester Rempel and James Smith. Ship 37 is skippered by Sol Singerman.



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[Above] are members of Skipper David Glatfelter's crew of Ship 17, Eli Minnich, Glen Landis, William Adams, Clair Spangler, John Unger and Allen Myers.

Captain Robert Shores is commander of the *Catherine*, which spends her whole summer playing hostess to Sea Scouts from Region 3, Boy Scouts of America. This was the first such trip for Scouts of the York-Adams Area council, but plans are being made for another cruise before school opens next month.

All types of weather were experienced by the young sailors. Rough sailing, windless days, the hottest day registered in Maryland this season and cold nights were all part of the adventure onboard the schooner. Swimming, fishing and crabbing provided recreation for the officers and crew when off duty and not studying.

Four boys stood watch every two hours between sunrise and sunset. At night, when the ship lay at anchor, each watch consisted of two of the teen-agers. Points visited included Sparrows Point, Love Point, Galesville, South River and Magothy.

The entire cruise was operated according to standards set by the National Senior Scouting and Camping and Activities Services. Two other schooners were present in the bay at the same time as the *Catherine*. Transportation to and from Annapolis was arranged by the committees of the senior units of the local ships.

- Photos by Herschel Leibowitz.

The Troop/Ship 37 scrapbooks have preserved over 60 photos from this epic voyage, and they have been incorporated into a more detailed, separate record. This cruise is still fresh in the memories of surviving participants almost 60 years later. Dick Eisensmith remembers in particular when the schooner anchored off Sparrows Point. The Sea Scouts rowed ashore and took the trolley into Baltimore, and the next thing they knew they ended up on Baltimore Street where the burlesque shows were. He also remembers dropping crab pots and the skipper steaming the crabs. Jimmy Smith remembers the

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huge harvest of crabs, and oysters as well. Carl Van Hyning remembers Skipper Sol Singerman with great affection.

The *York Dispatch* for July 29, 1946 gives additional details of the voyage;

The schooner *Catherine* was given over in command to the boys by Captain Robert Shores, Deal, Md., who personally instructed the scouts in preparing the ship, sails, and each was given an opportunity in steering and docking. The scouts went aboard ship fully equipped, with work suits and dress uniforms, and food was prepared aboard ship during the cruise by the senior scouts. Recreation included swimming, fishing and crabbing. Instructions included sea safety, sailing, life aboard ship, rules of the road at sea, navigation, piloting and the use of charts and running lights, soundings, signaling, cruising, elements of maritime law and usage. In addition to the leaders, the following sea scouts made the trip: Eagle Scouts James Smith, Carl Van Hyning and Richard Eisensmith; Apprentice [Sea] Scouts Lamar Van Hyning, Glen Glass, Lester Rempel, Thomas Reynold and Donald Yost, representing Troop 37; Ordinary Sea Scouts Allen Myers and Eli Minnich, and Apprentice [Sea] Scouts Clare Spangler, Glenn Landis, Adam Anders⁴, and John Unger, representing Ship 17. ... There were three schooners which made up the cruise last week, including the party from York, the others being from Region 3, Boy Scouts of America, of which the York-Adams Area Council is a member.

The cruise was also highlighted in similar terms in the September 1, 1946 *Scout Duffel*.

⁴The *Gazette* article identifies the boy as William Adams in two photos. The *Dispatch* article identifies the boy merely in the list as Adam Anders. I assume William Adams is the correct identification.