

# Sailing camps for underprivileged

By Steven Kendus

*Special to the Whig*

Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services recently received a grant to fund sailing camps for youths under the supervision of the state.

The sailing camp gives underprivileged teens the opportunity to spend six days on a sailing vessel and learn how to sail, while gaining self-esteem and learning the fundamentals of teamwork, honesty, trust

## North East vessel hosts teens from juvenile services

and responsibility.

Captain Phineas T. McHenry, Ltd. out of North East has been contracted by the state to provide the sailing camp to the children. Kenneth Henry of North East, owner of Captain Phineas McHenry, Ltd. acts as captain of the sailing vessel, "Francis Crow,"

while his wife, Victoria, and First Mate Greg Hawkins assist him.

Kenneth and Victoria run public sailing camps, as well as the ones contracted by Juvenile Services. They have a busy schedule, with usually only one day off between camps. However, they said the hard work is

not new to them because they built their schooner "Francis Crow," named after an innovator of the compass, by themselves in a friend's backyard. It took them over seven years to complete the project, but the "Francis Crow" is among the Coast Guard's highest-rated sailing vessels on the Chesapeake Bay.

The "Francis Crow" is a schooner class sailing vessel with two masts and four sails. It has the capability of sleeping more than 10 people comfortably and has a galley and bathrooms on board.

Captain Phineas McHenry, Ltd. conducts numerous sailing camps throughout the summer months. The Juvenile Services-sponsored sailing camps usually consist of eight appointed children and one counselor, along with the captain, his wife, and the first mate.

Guilia Hodge of the Cecil County Department of Juvenile Services said, "If we can make a difference in one child's life through the sailing camp, then we feel we have been successful."

*(Steven Kendus, a University of Delaware student, writes articles on volunteers for Cecil County agencies.)*

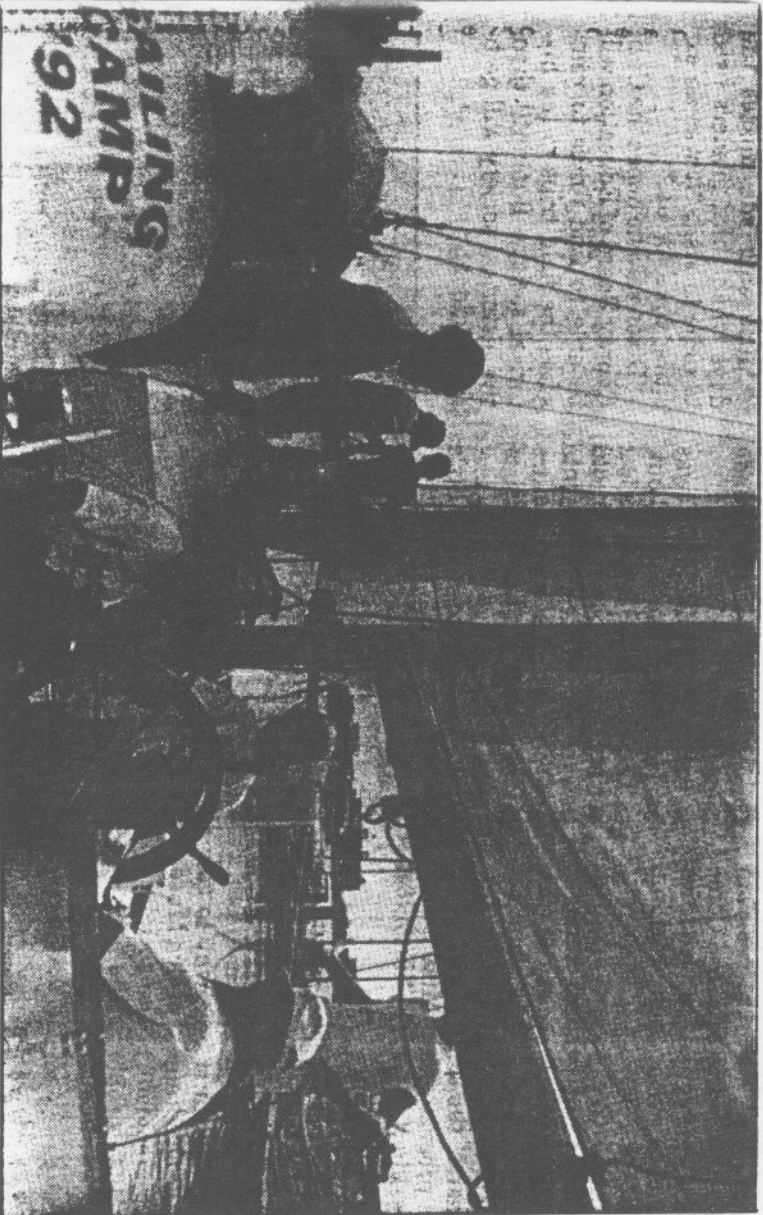


Photo by Steven Kendus

Underprivileged teens work on the "Francis Crow" out of North East.

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# Writer sails with juveniles for days of learning

By Steven Kendus

*Special to the Wig*

I had the pleasure of acting as a counselor and observer on a Cecil County Juvenile Services-sponsored sailing camp from Sunday, July 26, to Friday, July 31.

Adhering to a predetermined itinerary, eight youths began arriving at Bay Boat Works in North East about 6 p.m. Sunday to board the "Francis Crow." They were told to bring sleeping bags, warm and cool weather clothing, and necessary toiletries.

An orientation meeting was held on the boat, and the captain established the rules.

Four two-man teams were formed. The teams would be responsible for completing certain chores and raising and lowering certain sails.

The teams alternated chores each day, doing such jobs as cleaning the bathrooms, doing dishes, or mopping the decks. The following day, at Bay Boat Works they were instructed on raising and lowering the boat's sails. Because of little wind, The "Francis Crow" motored out of Bay Boat Works. The boat anchored at Ordinary Point on the Northeast River at 2 p.m. The children were allowed to swim around the boat, row in the dinghy, or fish. After dinner, the first nightly "rap session," for counseling purposes, was held and then the youths went to bed.

On Tuesday, they sailed for

the first time. After some confusion about properly raising the sails, the "Francis Crow" was sailing for Skip Jack Cove Marina. After arrival at Skip Jack Cove, the youths were allowed to use the facilities of the marina.

At 4:40 a.m. Wednesday, the captain started motoring towards Baltimore's Inner Harbor, which is an eight-hour boat ride from Skip Jack Cove. After arriving in Baltimore, the youths were allowed shore leave for two hours. They visited the Maryland Science Center at the Inner Harbor where they watched an IMAX theater presentation and viewed most of the center's exhibits. After din-

ner, the group toured the Portuguese sailing vessel "Sagres," which was docked nearby.

The "Francis Crow" sailed out of the Inner Harbor around 11 a.m. Thursday and anchored at Still Pond around 5 p.m. The youths were allowed to swim around the boat or row in the dinghy until dark.

Friday morning, there was a stiff wind blowing, and the crew set sail for Bay Boat Works. At this point, the youths were introduced to fast-moving sailing, with the boat leaning heavily at times. The "Francis Crow" arrived back at Bay Boat Works around 12:45 p.m., two hours ahead of schedule.

After cleaning the boat thoroughly, the youths participated in the last "rap session." They were asked to tell what they learned on the trip and to give their overall reactions. Most of them said they learned how to tie different knots and to sail. More importantly, most said they learned teamwork, responsibility, and trust.

The captain and I emphasized that the values learned on the trip were not to be left there, and that they should be used in everyday life. The importance of education was also emphasized, along with the value of organized sports.

In response to the trip as a whole, one juvenile humbly said, "We want to thank you, captain, for trusting us because we all know that we did something in our pasts." The captain was visibly moved.

"This was the best group I've ever had," said Capt. Kenneth Henry.

*(Steven Kendus, a University of Delaware student, writes articles for Cecil County agencies).*

Photo by Steven Kendus

## Australia army's sharpshooters kill 420 wild cats in three days

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Ten army sharpshooters have saved an endangered outback marsupial by killing 420 wild cats in less than three days, the Queensland state government said today.

South Australia's state government said Wednesday it is considering a night cat curfew plus compulsory sterilization to control numbers.

The troops were deployed amid fears the cats were about to wipe out a colony of bilbies on the banks of the Diamantina River, 800 miles west of the state capital, Brisbane.

The bilby is a small, furry, rabbit-eared animal with a population of less than 2,000. Like the kangaroo, it nurtures its young in a pouch.

In June, a parliamentary committee proposed using the endangered bilby to replace the Easter bunny because Australia is suffering damage from huge numbers of rabbits.

Wild cats are descendants of stray domestic cats, but many are twice the size of the house-bound variety. Some of those shot weighed more than 18 pounds.

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