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Harbor Light

Boat Owner's Prop Wash May Was Anchovies Away

To date there still is no shortage of Sweet Essence (Overripe Anchovy No. 5. So, if you have not yet experienced a good deep breath of it, come to the harbor and take a whiff to add to your stockpile of memories.

Joe Bravot's pipe, puffing along faster than usual, Joe says it is the only thing that has kept him alive during the anchovy invasion.

Unappetizing as it is, there are smells just as unsavory that haunt other places all the time. At least this odor is temporary and it is on the wane.

Naturally a certain amount of the residue has found its way into the slips and lies there in the form of a scum that seems to move little, if any.

A plan is being formulated for a highly interesting experiment designed to rid the harbor of this floating debris. Ralph King, port director, said plans call for a great cooperative effort on the part of boat owners next Saturday and Sunday afternoons. He said, "Call it Operation Prop Wash."

There are openings of approximately 18 inches between sections of styrofoam under the docks. It is hoped that the props of many boats running simultaneously in the predetermined pattern may push the concentration of anchovy "soup" through these openings. If boats on the east side of the harbor facing south run their props, and boats on the west side facing north run theirs, a movement of surface water may push the refuse to a point in the center where an outgoing tide can flush it away.

Boat owners willing to help in the operation are to listen for instructions over the public address system sometime after 4 p.m.

* * *

Mike Winnett, Capt. Adam, Ted Martin and Steve Mondini are busy at Terry Drew's Service Afloat scrubbing hulls, washing canvas and painting. A lot of additional maintenance is required to prevent damage to yachts from the anchovy-cluttered water.

Besides the clean-up work, they are currently engaged in putting final touches on the fleet of sailboats participating in the forthcoming Windjammer Race. Several entries from the Santa Cruz Yacht club will go to San Francisco to compete in the Labor Day race.

Adam and Winnett will come down on the Vintage owned by Ed Isett of San Jose. Drew will be on Norman Lezin's West Wind.

* * *

Capt. and Mrs. Adam moved here two months ago. They have been trailering and boating for two years since his early retirement from Ford Engineering in Dearborn, Mich.

Adam has participated in sail yacht races in the Great Lakes, on the East Coast, in Florida and the Bahamas. Mrs. Adam is often his right hand when cruising.

The purpose of the Adams' two years of traveling was to cover as much as possible of the continent to find the place they liked best. They found it here.

* * *

Major Matt Reynolds, air force, ret., of Palo Alto is owner of the Jenern, 33-foot cruiser at E-20. Formerly a charter fishing boat at Bethel Is., the Jenern is now being converted to a commercial boat and will fish locally.

* * *

Mark DuBois, owner of the Helen Ruth, a 42-foot Northern trawler, and Roy Woodworth, alternate skipper, are busy replacing the vessel's big motor in Monterey. Recently they were the object of concern and search when a bearing went out, they lost oil pressure and drifted three days before the Coast Guard found them.

They knew two hours in advance the motor was going. They gave their Loran position but received no answer. They announced their position repeatedly without any response.

An auxiliary motor kept the refrigerator going and Wood-

worth, a former jet pilot with technical background, rigged a light on the mast and a key in the pilot house to send SOS by light in the hope a plane would pick it up. They had enough food and water aboard.

DuBois says, "The Coast Guard deserves a lot of credit for the caliber of its personnel and the efficiency of its rescue."

Its radar out, the Coast Guard boat tracked back and forth until it finally found the Helen Ruth in fog in the area of Davison Seamount approximately 100 miles out of Monterey. It was doing an excellent job of towing when the tow line broke and the two boats again lost contact in a dense fog.

Back in Monterey when the disabled boat was receiving damage to its hull by the surge, local fishermen and others "just knocked themselves out" being helpful in towing the Helen Ruth to a buoy.

DuBois and his wife Mary live at 132-6th avenue in Santa Cruz and he keeps the boat berthed here in the winter. Its summers are spent in pursuit of salmon and albacore, unloading anywhere from San Pedro to Sausalito.

Along with other commercial boat owners DuBois likes to winter here because, among other advantages, this area is drier than most along the northern coast and they are able to do their painting and repair in less time.

By Norma Nelson
Guest Writer

On The Wing

Violet-Green Swallow True Westerner

Six species of swallows return each spring, but only the Violet-green is a true westerner.

These birds nest from central Alaska. British Columbia and southwestern Alberta south through the western states and Mexico. They are not found east of the Rockies. They have a rather wide variety of habitats when settled for breeding.

Violet-green Swallows are found in the vicinity of cliff faces or precipitous canyon walls which afford crevices of properly small dimensions required for nesting sites.

From these and from perches on neighboring dead-topped trees the birds range out in rather long curving radius for aerial foraging — low or high depending on the wind rate, degree of cloudiness or other factors controlling presence of preferred insects or the ability of the swallows to capture them.

Many Violet-green Swallows prefer broken or open type woods or margins of heavy forest where there are trees containing unused woodpecker excavations or natural cavities. Perching places close by are afforded by tips of dead branches from which the birds forage far and near over tree tops and low in glades.

Occasionally a pair of Violet-green Swallows will live very close to people, selecting a bird box, or entering a building through a tiny hole. Whatever the habitat, all individuals of this species carry grasses, straws and feathers through a small entrance and construct a cup-shaped nest on a firm platform.

Violet-green Swallows show no special preference for locations near water; indeed, nesting birds are to be found in rock-walled canyons of desert mountains where in summer there is no visible water. Shade, however, is a requirement. These swallows are solitary nesters or weakly colonial.

Violet-green Swallows received their names because their beautiful bottle-green backs change to a rich purple as the birds turn in the sunlight. They may be identified in flight by two white "thumb marks" on their backs just above their tails.

They fly so fast that it is impossible to see that their cheeks are pure white and that white