

Real Estate Board as its major community service project. Held every year on the Labour Day Weekend, this weekend's Festival includes sailboat,

pete for prizes. The following are hints of the variety of classic boats—and classic sailors—you can see and meet during the VREB boat festival this weekend.

By Shirley Hewett

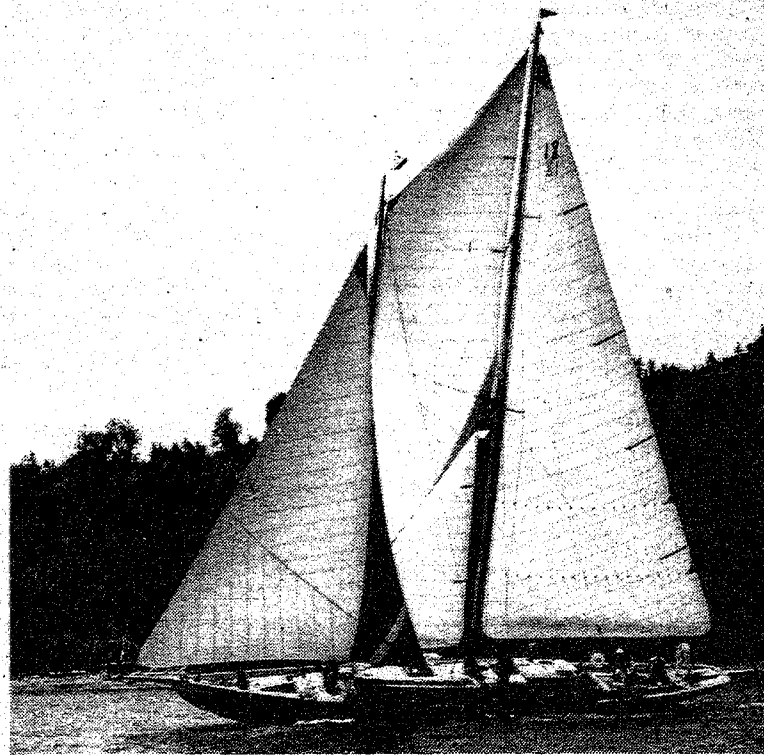
## Schooner rivals

**P**ASSING *Cloud* and *Red Jacket*

are natural rivals on the Pacific Northwest Schooner Racing circuit—exact opposites in everything except excellence of design and craftsmanship.

It takes a strong wind to power *Passing Cloud's* 50 tons, but when it does, she is rewarded with unique trophies such as bilge pumps and ponderous antique deadeyes. The former mark the Port Madison Races; the latter came from the 1984 San Francisco Master Mariner's Race, the first time the 117-year-old Johnson and Joseph Clipper Perpetual Trophy had left the United States.

Like *Bluenose*, which also created the competition in a blow, white-hulled *Passing Cloud* was designed by Nova Scotia's William Roue as a work boat. After the Second World War, Roue entered a Colombo Plan-sponsored competition, part of a program to help war-torn countries recover. This contest, for a craft to replace the Chinese junk, drew entries from many countries, but Roue's schooner design won the award. However, until fish boat builder Brian Walker constructed *Passing Cloud*, the design lay dormant. It was the first pleasure boat Walker had attempted and he left nothing to chance, first fashioning a two-foot model which he tank tested on a pond.



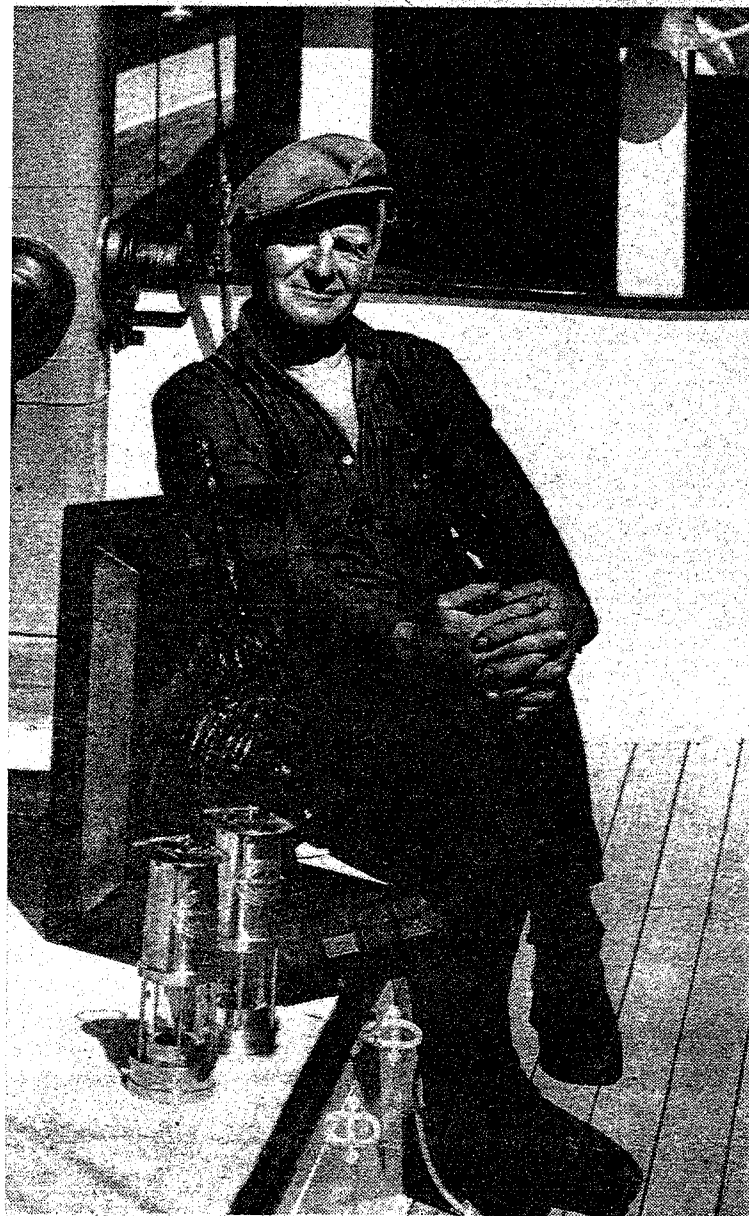
Red Jacket was rescued from a fire that sent her to the bottom of Lake Washington in 1932

*Red Jacket*, on the other hand, like most yachts of her day, was a rich man's toy. In 1921, naval architect Ted Geary teamed with Blanchard Boat yard to produce a craft of outstanding merit. Black-hulled, her fine lines cleave the water in the gentlest of breezes, which gives her a definite competition edge in Victoria's prevailing summer winds.

Originally named *Katedna*, the 62-foot schooner raced to Honolulu and cruised the South Seas before returning to rise, phoenix-like, from near disaster. In 1932, a fire sent her to the bottom of

Lake Washington, her hull deliberately shot full of holes so that sinking would douse the flames.

*Red Jacket* regularly graced the Swiftsure start line in the 1940s and early '50s, usually placing mid-fleet. The Classic Boat Festival has allowed *Red Jacket* to hit her stride. She's captured the Schooner Classic Cup for the past three years, as well as taking the 1984 Best Restored Sail Award. Port Townsend's William Curry is *Red Jacket's* current skipper. Norman Blanchard, son of her builder, is the 1987 Boat Festival's Honorary Commodore.



Brian Walker on board *Passing Cloud*, the first non-U.S. winner of the San Francisco Master Mariner's race