

Old Swedish Schooner to Aid Restoration of Old U.S. Boat

By JUNE PARIS

Carl Ring, the Swedish sailor who is docked in Centerport Harbor aboard the 1906 schooner he rebuilt, knows what it takes to restore an old boat. To help his neighbor Bill Perks raise funds for the restoration of the *Little Jennie*, a 101-year old U.S. merchant sailing vessel, Mr. Ring has offered to take his boat the "*Svanen*" out for a ride.

"My boat is the last of her kind the way *Little Jennie* is the last of hers," Mr. Ring commented. "Now that I've decided to settle here, I want to take an active part in this country. I want to support it with all that I can."

On Friday evening, July 12, the *Svanen* will play host to guests who, for \$30, would also like to support the restoration of the *Little Jennie*. Aboard the 96-foot *Svanen* equipped with kitchen, living room with fireplace and dining room, passengers will be treated to a two-hour cruise on Long Island Sound, wine and cheese, and no doubt talk of old boats.

The *Little Jennie*, an 86-foot bug-eye ketch that was built in 1884 to dredge oysters from Chesapeake Bay, requires about \$300,000 to be properly restored. If that goal can be attained by Bill Perks and supporters who have formed a non-profit corporation to raise the funds, the *Little Jennie* will host the Tall Ships in Huntington Harbor next summer for Operation 1986, and then sail into New York Harbor for the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty.

Mr. Perks, who hopes to have the *Little Jennie* listed in the National Register of Historic Places, says that work on her is on schedule, and she should be ready to be launched sometime in August.

To make a reservation for the excursion aboard the *Svanen*, please call Operation *Little Jennie* Inc. at 754-2864. Space is limited, but Carl Ring says that, if need be, he doesn't mind taking his boat out on several occasions.