

Maritime Award Presented

By David Ambro

For efforts to preserve two historical vessels, Huntington's new perpetuating maritime heritage trophy has been presented to the Little Jennie Inc.

The beautiful bronze alloy trophy, created by Centerport sculptor Roberto Bessin, will be displayed at Huntington Town Hall and presented each year around the Fourth of July to an individual or group which contributes most to the preservation and improvement of maritime heritage in Huntington.

The sculpture, which was presented this week by Mr. Bessin, to Huntington Councilman Kenneth Deegan and Little Jennie Inc. President William Perks, is of two rugged sailors' hands carving a barnacle off a turnbuckle.

"It was a tremendous honor to be involved with the maritime heritage award because it will be a perpetuating trophy," said Mr. Bessin after having officially turned the sculpture over to the town. He said that although he has been doing a lot of modern art sculpture recently, he created the award in a master's motif so that it will always be in style.

The hands of the sculpture are meant to convey a rugged feeling while a knife is being used to gently chip the barnacle from the turnbuckle.

"It presents the two extremes—rugged and gentle," said Mr. Bessin. "That is what the preservation of old boats means to me. It takes a lot of hard work but it also takes some delicate efforts."

Mr. Bessin said that he would like to see the trophy presented each year to a person or organization which touches the community with a maritime preservation project. He said that he would like to see the project involve the community, children, seniors and in some way touch the people of the North Shore of Long Island.

(Continued on page 13)



Maritime Heritage Plan Developing

By David Ambro

Efforts to preserve and promote the maritime heritage of Huntington are gaining steam.

Little Jennie Inc. is a not for profit organization established to concentrate community involvement and donations toward renovating the 102-year-old bugeye Little Jennie so

that it could be ready for the Op Sail Fourth of July celebration in honor of the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty. Midway through the project, Little Jennie Inc. took on the additional task of renovating, as Jennie's sister ship, the Little Jean.

Both projects were a major success.

(Continued on page 25)

Perpetual Trophy On Display

(Continued from page 3)

"I don't think it should just go to the longest or the tallest old boat that is renovated each year. It might go to people who develop a new third grade educational program in sea lore or something like that," he said. "The Little Jennie renovation was an effort on many people's parts and that's what I think made it special."

A Centerport resident living on the Titus Mill Pond, Mr. Bessin was a volunteer on the Little Jennie project but having suffered a knee injury his efforts had to be limited. The sculpture, how-

ever, became a labor of love which took weeks of trial and error. At one point he had a mold cast and because of use of bad material it failed. "That almost ruined the whole project," he said.

He ended up making the mold himself which took ten days. After the mold was completed it was just a matter of days before he had a finished project.

"It is truly beautiful," said Huntington Councilman Kenneth Deegan, who accepted the trophy on behalf of the town because he was the organizer of the Libertyport '86 operation.



PRESENTED: Centerport sculptor Roberto Bessin (center) presents the trophy he carved to Huntington Councilman Kenneth Deegan and Little Jennie Inc. President William Perks. The trophy, which was presented for the first time to Little Jennie Inc., will become a perpetuating award presented to those who work toward preserving the maritime heritage of the town.

David Ambro photo