

THE HUDSON RIVER WELCOMES BACK JERRY LAND

By James Jorgenson, Hudson River Valley Chapter

A historic vessel, comfortably berthed at Huguenot Yacht Club, made yet another transition in her notable nautical life. The Huguenot Yacht Club, founded in 1894, is a private social yacht club based on the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle, New York, one of the earliest yachting institutions in America, with members having contributed to the sport of yachting and sailing.

Located on the western Long Island shore, on a quiet and beautiful part of the Long Island Sound next to Glen Island, our location is in close proximity to New York City.

Our vessel, at the time of this writing, is fulfilling a dream of my wife Linda's as well as my father and mother's of owning and traveling on a Grand Banks. Unfortunately, life dealt dad a different set

cards so I thought it appropriate for dad to ride in the bridge on our maiden voyage.

Linda and I have always loved the water. We had chartered several Grand Banks as our children were growing up, which solidified our desire to find just the right one. Finding the right vessel with the right owner was paramount in our longtime search, a search that was renewed as our last child, James, graduated with honors as a cadet from SUNY Maritime (Fort Skyler).

When we found her, the hands of time moved back 22 years as I recalled the words of my grandfather's favorite author:

"Life goes on. No end appears to its laughter or tears. Wise men die, but just as wise men tomorrow will arise. All that is will still go on after we who toil are gone. Life unaltered keeps its pace: There's a man for every place."

When we found her, *Jerry Land* resided in Norfolk, Virginia in the dedicated stewardship of Rear Admiral Mark "Buz" Buzby, U.S. Navy (Retired). Now that she is back in her home waters, we'd like to tell you her very interesting story.

Jerry Land was "born" in Hong Kong in 1970. She is made of teak and yackel (an Asian oak) and from bow to stern she is 100 percent wood. She was designed by noted naval architect, Arthur DeFever, and her construction was overseen by Tony Fleming, who is still building beautiful yachts today. *Jerry Land* is 46-feet long and has a keel draft of 5-feet. But, these facts don't do her story justice. Only her incredible history, thus far, can do that.

She was built especially for Mr. C. Thomas Clagett, a prominent Washington, DC attorney, and was christened *Anore* after his lovely wife. Both were avid sailors who were slowing down

a bit, wanted a little less stressful way to enjoy the water and appreciated the comforts of a spacious motor yacht.

In late 1973, as workups for the 1974 America's Cup yacht races began, Mr. Clagett decided to donate his yacht to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's Kings Point Fund which was sponsoring a campaign for the 12-meter yachts, *Mariner* and *Valiant*, to defend the Cup. *Anore* would serve these yachts as tender and his desire was that she be turned over to the academy after her tender duties were over.

So, Mr. Clagett did just that. He donated the boat and asked that she be re-christened in memory of his best friend, Admiral Emory S. "Jerry" Land, U.S. Navy (Retired) who, as Chairman of the US Maritime Commission, led the massive Merchant Marine build up during World War II. The Academy used her to train midshipmen. ►

Left. *Jerry Land* docked at Huguenot Yacht Club, New Rochelle, New York. Above. Cruising near Saratoga Springs on the Hudson River.



Top down. Then Merchant Marine Academy cadet, Mark Buzby and Jackie O. aboard *Jerry Land*, cruising OPSAIL 76 vessels in Newport Harbor, June 1976. (Photo: RA Mark Buzby (Ret)). Jackie O. and her family standing in front of *Jerry Land*, moored at Hammersmith Farm dock, Newport RI, June 1976 (Photo: RA Mark Buzby (Ret)). Right. Linda at the helm, Chanel as her first mate, in the Champlain Canal.

Also, that summer, Midshipman Mark "Buz" Buzby came to attend the academy from Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was one of the very first to come aboard. He loved her lines and spent a great deal of his time learning to handle her as well as keeping her wood freshly varnished, painted and repaired.

One of "Buz" and *Jerry's* finest moments together was when the boat again served as a tender, during the 1976 tall ships festival in Newport, Rhode Island. assignment was to embark the Auchincloss family at the Hammersmith Farms dock and take them out into the Narragansett Bay to observe the Parade of Sail. The stand-out celebrity in the group was Mrs. Jackie Kennedy Onassis. She met with Midshipman Buzby and the rest of the crew, and enjoyed her cruise onboard *Jerry*.

After four years of tending to her during his academy life, Buzby had to say goodbye at graduation upon entering the U.S. Navy. His parting words to staff friends at Kings Point were, "If you ever decide to sell her, call me first." Fast forward to 1984 when Lieutenant Buzby received a naval message from the Academy: *Jerry Land* is for sale, are you interested?" He flew to New York, was reunited, made the arrangements, and bought her for his own.

Over the years, *Jerry* participated in Buz's wedding to Gina Warren Buzby,

hosted Admirals, Chiefs, dignitaries, VIP's, celebrities, military spouse groups, friends and family, faithfully residing in five different states, cruising the Intra-Coastal Waterway four times, and serving as Buz's home for 12 of the 31 years he owned her, including that first year of marriage in Annapolis, Maryland. *Jerry* celebrates her 46th birthday in 2020, and has left an indelible memory with Mark and Gina Buzby.

Now, her journey continues, and as always, she cruises in graceful style, having moved back to familiar waters and fulfilling our lifelong dream of owning a boat like her.

We have a huge responsibility caring for this fine vessel and promise to keep her sailing proud across calm waters for many years to come. 🚩



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