

OUTWARD LEG Newsletter from the Orient. By Tristan Jones. Nov/Dec 86.

After an exhausting but successful tour of three U.S. boatshows in Stamford, Houston and Annapolis, during which Tristan signed 1600 plus of his books past and present, and a lecture in Boston for Multihulls Magazine, Tristan and Thomas returned to Thailand in early November, to find Outward Leg sitting at anchor, safe and sound, awaiting them. This was after calling at Vienna, Austria, to hand over to the Vienna University the 60-chart Danube Pilot, which details all the 1350 miles of navigable water on that river, including 900 miles behind the Iron Curtain. The Central Europeans were astonished and highly delighted to receive this information, previously withheld from them by the Soviet masters of the Danube Valley in South Eastern Europe. Copies are to be sent to all responsible agencies in Western Europe and some in Hungary and Rumania, too, also Yugoslavia. For readers who don't know, the information detailed in the Danube Pilot was gathered by Tristan during the descent of the river in 1985, and drawn out studiously by Thomas in Greece, when the boat was in the Eastern Mediterranean. Tristan and Thomas both feel elated at having had the opportunity to repay back, with some interest, the attempted sinking of Outward Leg by the Soviet's minions in Bratislava on May 2nd last year. Shoot at our boat and we'll shoot at your bloody rickety empire!

Atlantis Society: With part of the proceeds of our tour, we have purchased the first of the Society's fishing craft for training handicapped youngsters to earn a living at sea. She is thirty feet long, stoutly built in Thailand of good hardwood, shallow draft, for the shoals off the island, and fitted with a Biggs and Stratton 15 h.p. longtail engine. She is an open boat, but we shall fit a sun canopy over her. The boat was obtained for \$1000.00, engine included. We hope to obtain a Yanmar diesel engine for the craft before we set off for China in "Outward Leg". The Biggs engine is gasoline, but we feel that a diesel engine will be safer and more dependable. The Yanmar will cost \$2500.00.

The fishing craft will be named "Henry Wagner" (Owner of Sailor's Bookshelf and a very good friend to the Society) and we hope to hold a naming ceremony (complete with Buddhist monks) with the company of Henry Wagner here in Phuket later this month or in December.

The first fishing sortie should take place in early December, and the skipper of the boat (after suitable training in another craft with able-bodied crew) will be Son, the lad for whom we obtained a false arm in Boston. His mate will be Guilai, the young chap who was born with no legs, but only feet where they should be. The whole operation of refitting "Henry Wagner" and operating her, is being taped on video. We shall send the tape to "SEA-TV", who have promised to look into marketing it.

Your contributions to Atlantis Society are thus making the "almost undreamable" come TRUE for people who otherwise had no hopes at all apart from begging at the gates of the local temple. Once the pilot boat and crew are well underway we hope to get youngsters down here from other parts of Thailand, at first, to be inspired by what we are doing. Then, later on, from other parts of the world, so that they can return to their homes knowing that the only real handicap is the loss of hope, and that where there's a will there's a way.

Outward Leg. We have shifted the boat's anchorage so that she is now sitting in front of the Bowery House. This makes for much easier commuting to and from her. She is now completely re-painted and being fitted out for the five thousand mile voyage to the mouth of the Yangtse next year. This voyage should commence in March. We shall leave the house and the fishing craft in the charge of responsible people who know local customs and conditions, while we make the Yangtse voyage. Xcont.....



Picture of the fishing craft "Henry Wagner", by Thomas Ettenhuber.

On our return from the Yngtse, by air (we shall leave the boat in Hong-kong or Japan for the winter of '87-88, before returning her to San Diego) we hope to purchase and furbish two more fishing-training craft for handicapped youngsters here in Phuket. Besides fishing and small craft operations they will also learn boat maintenance and some navigational skills. When the youngsters come from outside Thailand they can be instructed, so far, in English, German, Spanish and French. Those able to can take lessons in diving (scuba and free diving), sail-boarding and outboard engine maintenance, as well as long-tail engine and fishing gear. With three boats in our little fleet, together with other local craft which may be chartered should the need arise, we should be able, by the end of 1987, to accomodate up to twenty "students" at a time. The surroundings are beautiful, the food is cheap and plentiful, and the accommodations, while Spartan, are sufficient. Besides, the local culture is of tremendous interest to youngsters who would, otherwise, only see bits of it on television. to see is not to know; to experience is.

To those of you ~~who~~ have contributed your tax-deductible donations to the Atlantis Society in the past year, we render our thanks, and only wish that you could see and hear the change from hopeless lassitude to bright, lively ambition in these local "handicapped" kids. Before, they were more or less counted among the animals; now they are people among people. To those who don't know about us, we are registered as a non-profit organisation to find ways and means for handicapped youngsters to earn their living in boats and at sea, in the State of New York, (A759794-8) and we are engaged in registering the Society in Thailand, too. All donation are tax-deductible, and should be made to Atlantis Society, Account Number 043-114440, at Chemical Bank, 204, West 4th St., New York, NY 10014.

\$10.00 will keep one handicapped youngsters under training for one day.

\$30.00 will transport a handicapped kid from the slums of Bangkok to Phuket and return, by bus. \$120 by air.

\$20.00 Will fuel the fishing-boat "Henry Wagner" for one week.

Please help us to bring hope to the hopeless....

Tristan Jones.

NOTE: Watch for forthcoming article on
Tristan Jones in Sports Illustrated Magazine.

Tristan Jones