

Dedication speech for the restoration of the "Charlotte" Josephine Del Deo

It has been appropriate today to recount the biographical facts about the Charlotte, for her chronicle is not the usual history, but one that encompasses the lives of many Provincetown men and symbolizes the lives of many others. The facts and figures are important to all of us gathered here, but they will be more important to your children and to those that follow, because the trapboat Charlotte is the last of a once lusty species of fishing boats that may never be seen again as we see her now-sleek, freshly painted and ready to steal across the harbor at dawn to pull the traps. ~~The Charlotte is the last of a once lusty species of fishing boats that may never be seen again as we see her today.~~ The Charlotte today is exactly as she would have been in 1920 or 1930 or 1960 ~~thanks to Dick Aliberto.~~ ^{Visitors} ~~Visitors from~~ to the museum from this day forward will be able to enjoy the look, if not the actuality of the Charlotte's former life; however, only a part of the history of the trap fishing industry is yet in place here. The trapboat wharf at the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Cold Storage plant had several railway cars, two of which sit jauntily against the building.

and There will be other additions to come which will round out the public's understanding of the whole process.

Only those of you assembled here, however, who were privileged to fish on the Charlotte or who fished on other trap boats or who shared the fishermen's lives will ever know her complete story,-the looming of the weirs at her bow, the rising sun at the gunnel and the silver wake at her stern as she headed for the gate of the trap. Today we remember, we commemorate and we honor her honest working life and that of her several crews, and we hereby dedicate all her future voyages to posterity. I would like to ask Joe Oliver, her first captain and captain for twenty-five years to christen her for this last long voyage.