

Charlotte getting face-lift

A crew of 11 men with a towering crane and a flatbed truck yesterday finally raised the **Charlotte**, the last Provincetown trap boat, from the sands of the West End.

The boat was carted off to Cape Cod Tech where students in the marine railway shop will repair her for a spot of honor next to the Provincetown Heritage Museum.

Raising of the 14-ton trap boat was frustrated Monday and Tuesday by gale winds and driving rain, despite earnest efforts by the crew.

Warren Roderick, and a friend, Fred Penia of Harwich, organized the crew to dig out the **Charlotte** and lift her with the crane. They offered to do the work for cost. Phil DesChamps of Nauset Marine donated the flatbed truck to transport the boat.

Cape Cod Tech's Dick Alpert, who renovated New Bedford's whaling schooner **Logoda**, agreed to work on the boat with his students for the cost of

materials plus 15 percent for contingencies.

George Colley donated the boat, which had lain inactive by the Provincetown Inn, to the historical association.

The delays in raising the boat over the last three days did not reflect a lack of effort. The crew tried three times Monday to raise her, first from the bow, then the stern, digging under the hull by hand and then by machine.

Suction held down the massive, water-soaked boat. At one point, straps supporting the boat in the air snapped, sending onlookers running from what sounded like an explosion.

After attaching new cables and supports, the workmen decided to put off the job until Tuesday. As the storm kept up, the **Charlotte** was not raised until yesterday morning.

The **Charlotte** will require far less work than originally anticipated. Once the hard oak boat was raised, workers discovered that its keel is in good shape.

"We just have to restore it, not rebuild it," said Cyril Patrick, president of the historical association.

The trap fishing industry declined within the last 20 years, largele due to construction of the Cape Cod Canal and the

intrusion of foreign fishing fleets. The 4000-year-old process is called trap fishing because fishermen would pull nets up by poles placed around them and gather in fish caught inside the trap.

The **Carlotta**, captained by Louis Cordeiro, the last active trap boat, has recently been converted for other types of fishing.



Resurrecting the trap boat 'Charlotte'

Advocate photo by Steven Schwadron