

BATEAU *JOLLY DOLPHIN* TO BE FLIPPED

By Bonnie Shertenlieb

It's hard to imagine flipping a 42' bateau with a 13 ½' beam 180 degrees in order to work on her bottom but that's what the volunteers at the Ruark Boatworks on Maryland Avenue are doing sometime this week. Since, much like a skipjack, a bateau starts out life upside down when she's being built, this is not a totally outlandish thing to do. It is much easier to work on a boat's bottom this way than it would be if she were right side up and the worker had to lie on his or her back.

The work has started and the volunteers, under the guidance of "Mac" McGlaughlin are currently building and installing braces throughout the interior of the boat so that while she is being turned over, she won't crack or jiggle or dislodge anything important.

A lift apparatus from Yacht Maintenance will be used for the "flipping" process. The lift will use two belts or slings, one forward and one aft, to raise the boat into the air. The slings will then be shortened on one side so that the boat tilts gradually to a side up, vertical position. She'll then be gradually eased down to rest on her rails, bottom up.



Once the *JOLLY DOLPHIN* is upside down and while she's still suspended from the lift apparatus she'll be rolled into what is going to be a working shed structure. The poles for the sides and some of the roof support are in place but the roof can't be installed until the boat is positioned because the lift is taller than the roof is going to be.

The repair project is going to involve removing and replacing

much of the timber in the bottom of the boat and "whatever else" turns

up needing repair in the process. The Ruark Boatworks, part of the Richardson Maritime Museum, is a natural choice for this renovation work since the boat was originally built by "Mr. Jim" Richardson. The public is urged to stop by and view the work in progress or even to help! The *JOLLY DOLPHIN*'s current owner, Jack Zuraw, is an architect from Annapolis. Once the restoration of the boat's bottom is complete, Mr. Zuraw intends to restore the topsides himself. Anyone with questions can call the Richardson Maritime Museum at 410-221-1871 or the Ruark Boatworks at 410/221-8844 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.