

Dippies enjoy a perfect day on the big water

It doesn't take much to enjoy being out on Georgian Bay and the Dispro Owners Association lucked out this year. With perfect weather and spectacular scenery of Georgian Bay, this was unquestionably one of the nicest regattas ever in the history of the event.

Stationed at Honey Harbour's Delawana Inn, nearly forty boats launched for the annual regatta.

Over the years, the event has mellowed from being a weekend of races and childish playfulness to mature and comfortable cruising.

Mary and John Storey, who were among the nearly 100 participants, toured in their 1947 Greavette Dispro named Muggins. It was an absolutely spectacular weekend, according to Mary. "Sure there were the usual breakdowns and a few boats got slightly lost, but that is all part of the adventure."

The event began with the Friday evening gathering to hear Guy Johnstone, owner of Kittyhawk, tell the story of how Orville Wright came to Georgian Bay and the boat he bought in 1932.

After the group photo, the Dispro Owners headed out to three historic cottages on the Saturday. Guy and Katherine Johnstone, who summer in Franceville, opened their cottage to the DOA, providing an opportunity to see Kittyhawk at her summer berth.

Guy explained that Franceville was a family-run tourist center which at one time or another had three hotels. These hotels were operated by the France family and the name "Franceville" was the designation assigned by the Federal Government when it became a postal center in the early 1900s. Guy's wife, Katherine is a France and was raised here.

Lambert, the cottage where Kittyhawk and Orville Wright summered, is about 1 1/2 miles south of Franceville.

The Orville Wright cottage was the second of three stops for the Dispros. Particularly precious and fascinating were the original pieces by Wright's summertime friend, A.Y. Jackson. Several panels in the cottage are decorated



CLASSICS ON THE WATER



BY TIM DU VERNET

TRICKY NAVIGATION: It isn't easy piloting a Dippy through the narrow channels of Georgian Bay, even with a chart. John and Happy Thomson found their way successfully. Robert Clipsham (below, left) uses his "sounding device", while partner Pamela Gibson navigates during the annual Dispro Owners Association regatta held at Delawana Inn this year.

Photos by Tim Du Vernet

with this Group of Seven member's handiwork. The current owners have been careful to preserve and protect the delicate works of art.

Sunday is always a shorter cruising day, to give boaters a chance to load up their trailers and head home before the traffic. The cruise headed south this time toward Penetanguishine, again in nearly perfect weather.

Sunday's lunch brings the annual handing out of the DOA regatta plaques for those who brought a boat

and the awards for special members. With a hearty lunch tucked under their belts, the Dispros were all out of the water by 4:00 and safely on their way. The group plans to return to Delawana Inn next year, as has been the pattern.

