

Olympia: International Boat Show

30th Dec. 1954

London: Little ships brought the tang of the sea to Olympia when Coxswain Bradford (a member of the Exmouth lifeboat for twenty-nine years) launched, (over the bell of the old Mauretania) Britain's first National Boat Show ^{etc.}

Among sixty craft of all types on view, ^{is} was the 265 year-old State Barge - ~~restored~~ ^{RESTORED-} and loaned by the Queen for the occasion. ② ②

Another Royal exhibit ^{is} was the Duke of Edinburgh's "Flying Fifteen" ~~Mauretania~~ Coweslip - seen here with the famous yachtsman-designer, Uffa Fox.

While for those who like to paddle their own canoe - there's a "Build it Yourself" boatyard - manned by expert instructors.

In contrast - a two-and-a-half ton auxiliary sloop - a safe and seaworthy craft.

For family pleasure or as a top-speed launch - the Invicta "Jet-Racer" ~~is~~ the first twin-hulled speed-boat to be built in this country.

The Show is sponsored by the Daily Express - and Royal Marine frogmen demonstrate the latest method of exploding limpet mines on the hulls of enemy vessels.

And here, it seems, all the nice girls love a sailing craft - after all, they can always get tied up to a buoy later!

Film Star Eunice Gayson takes the wheel of one of the many types of Bray craft on show. Altogether, nearly 150 firms are ~~represented~~ demonstrating boats and marine equipment of all kinds. A case of "Ship Ahoy" - any more for the S.S. Olympia!