

# Ceremony at sea bids farewell to master shipwright

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When Paul "Sugar" Lindwall built a boat, he put his heart into it. People who knew his work said he

did everything right the first time, from perfect start to impeccable finish. Take a trip to the Santa Barbara Harbor and it's likely you'll see some of his work, bobbing gently in their slips, waiting to be taken out on the

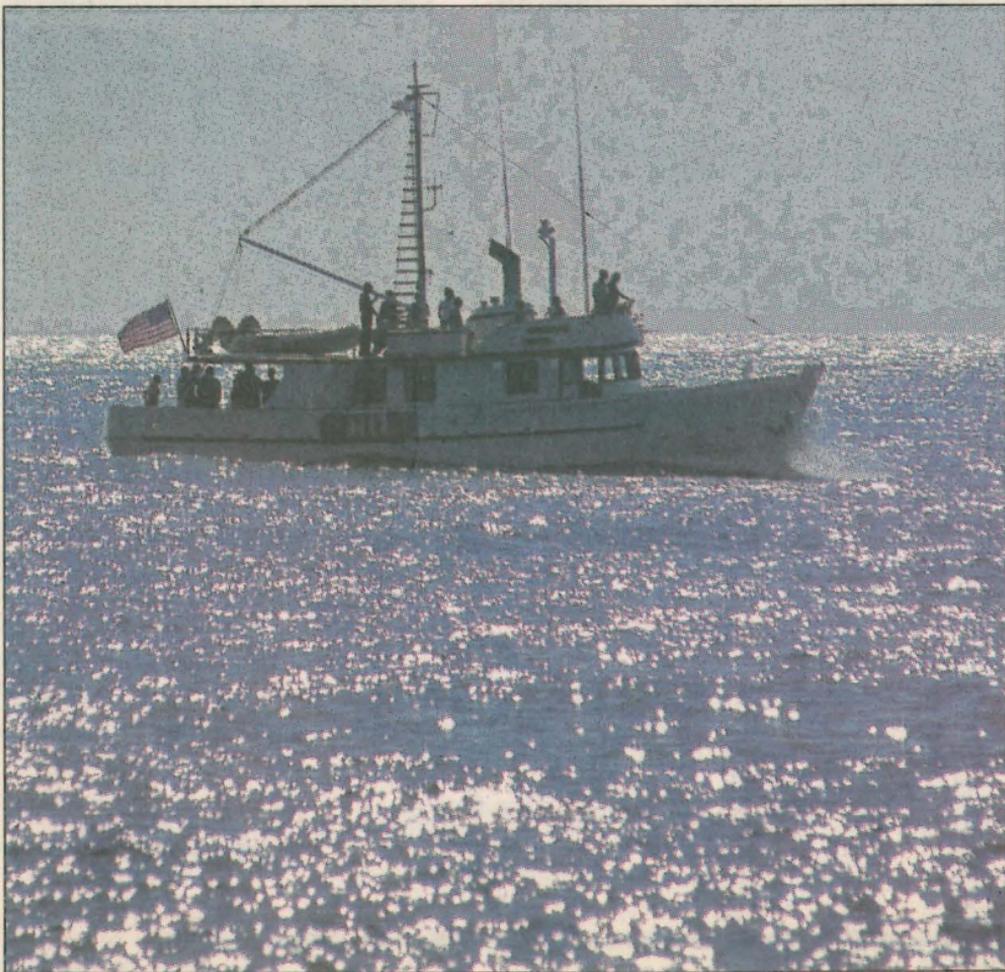
water.

So when the master shipwright died last month, just shy of his 88th birthday, it was only fitting for several of the community's boat enthusiasts to remember him with a trip out on the

water that his boats sail on.

On Saturday morning, a small flotilla of boats filled with friends and family sailed out into the waters just

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**The Tonina heads out to sea Saturday to spread the ashes of Paul "Sugar" Lindwall, a respected Santa Barbara shipwright since the 1940s who died in July.**

# Shipwright specialized in wooden boats

## ■ SHIPWRIGHT

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off Leadbetter Beach to sprinkle Sugar's ashes into the current.

"He was kind of a unique character," said Carol Lindwall-Bowie, one of Sugar's daughters.

He was a stoic person, she said, of Finnish stock, and a real craftsman. He got his nickname from a friend's mother who thought little Paul was the "cutest, sweetest" kid.

The name stuck so well that virtually no one who knew him didn't call him by his nickname.

Born into a shipbuilding family in Astoria, Ore., Mr. Lindwall moved to Santa Barbara with his family just a few years after the 1925 earthquake. He was 5 years old.

He attended Santa Barbara High School, got into the family business at a young age, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, stationed in the South Pacific, where he plied his trade.

Upon return, he and his father opened up Lindwall Boat Works,

building some of the most-loved wooden boats in the Santa Barbara Harbor today.

Some of Mr. Lindwall's best work is a 58-foot offshore cruiser named Tonina that hosted family and close friends on the ride out on the water. While the almost 50-year-old boat is now owned by Los Alamitos-based couple Rick and Merie Fricke, they were quite happy to take their craft out in honor of its builder.

"It's probably the queen of the line," said Mrs. Lindwall-Bowie.

The boat has been all over the world, Mr. Fricke said.

Wooden boats were Mr. Lindwall's specialty and he designed and built several of them with his father at Lindwall Boat Works, and also with naval architect Arthur Defever, from commercial fishing boats like the Cecelia, which also went out on the trip, to the Vaquero II, built to ship cattle back and forth from Santa Rosa Island.

Until the last year, Mr. Lindwall and his wife, Lucy, who was his childhood sweetheart, were fixtures at the Waterfront, where they took walks and hung out with the regulars.



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**Pictured from left are Paul Lindwall's daughter Lucy Lindwall with Merie Fricke and Charlie Fricke, family members of the owner of the Tonina.**

"I don't know who we're going to get to fix the boat now," said Ellen Everson, who with husband Bill owns a sailboat that was regularly repaired

by Mr. Lindwall. "We're going to miss him."

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