

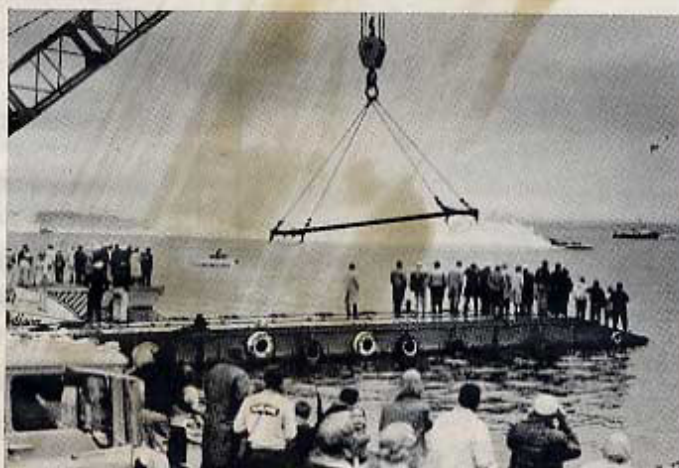
In The Pits With Miss Bardahl

BY WES BALZ

For the second year in a row, 5'-7" Ron Musson piloted the 30'-4" "Green Dragon" through a full racing season to rack up the APBA Unlimited High Point Championships for boat and driver. Full measure of credit is due Leo Vanden Berg and his efficient crew of mechanics shown here as they coax the three-ton monster and her supercharged 2,200-hp Rolls-Merlin converted aircraft engine to respond to Musson's artful urging



It just looks like Musson is walking a tight rope. He went on to win this early heat for the President's Cup in September.



Final heats for the President's Cup were run on a rainy Sunday. Miss Bardahl finished fourth and Miss Smirnoff was the winner.



Final words before firing up for a heat at speeds close to 200 mph. If anything breaks, the crew can draw on a stock of two or

three extra engines, eight or ten props, and a full van of spare parts that accompany the boat when she is on the race circuit.



After each heat, the boat is gently lifted from the water and laid on her trailer bed with a frame specially designed to distribute

weight. This fish's-eye view shows her hand-forged two-blade prop and offset rudder with water speed indicator tubing.



Her crew knows each part by feel and there is an air of confidence as they swarm over her for routine checks and double checks every time she comes in from a run.



After a trial run, driver and crew chief discuss water conditions and performance. **J**