



"Has he been waiting long? Just six ham sandwiches, two peanut butter, five jam and a quart of milk!"

Strange Looking Crafts Billed As Water Buses

By FRED T. FERGUSON
United Press International
NEW YORK (UPI) — On July 15, a strange little water craft was making its first taxi run when the president of the new commuter service slipped from the deck and fell into the East River.

The hydrofoil Albatross was off with a splash!

"What a story I had for the boys in the office," said one of the commuters then. And what a story since.

The Albatross, which her developers call "the model 'T' of the industry," has kept a better schedule than many a commuter train.

Each of two firms — the one with the boat in service, the other with a slightly larger one making demonstrations — hopes to have 35 hydrofoils on runs to and from the New York World's Fair next year.

Both firms are counting on Fair runs to provide development and expansion revenues to establish what amounts to water rapid transit.

What is a hydrofoil?

Rides On Struts

Essentially, it is a boat with a somewhat conventional hull and winglike foils on struts that raise the hull out of the water when the boat gets up speed. This eliminates some water resistance and permits relatively high speeds.

Hydrofoils have been said to "fly in the water," but the man who started the water commuter service here prefers to compare his boats with buses. Ira Dowd, president of American Hydrofoil Lines, said they are more like buses because their passenger load is similar and the foils meet friction more like wheels on ground than aircraft wings aloft.

During the Albatross' first commuter run, Dowd was arguing with the skipper about keeping the cutter's schedule when he slipped and was thoroughly drenched.

Since the first run of the Albatross, she has been late once, when debris fouled her foils and she had to proceed like a boat in water. Otherwise — unlike commuter trains which cannot run ahead of schedule because of their numerous stops — the Albatross has cut an average of four minutes off her schedule each way.

Has Some Disadvantages

But there are these disadvantages to the Albatross:

—She cannot operate at sea.

—She only has a 25-mile range.

—Her top speed is only 25 miles per hour.

—She is limited to 22 passengers.

Dowd said some of these disadvantages result from avoidance in her design of unsolved problems in hydrofoil development and an attempt to build what he claims now is "the model 'T' of the industry." He said the limitations make for advantages in other ways.

The Albatross' diminutive size enables her owners to cart her around on a tractor-trailer and to dock her at yacht clubs to pick up passengers.

Her relatively low speed limits strain on her foil system and permits rigid foils which can be replaced in three hours. It also permits the craft to run for an hour on 5½ gallons of diesel oil.

15-Year-Old Italian Lad Successful Tire Dealer

TARRANTO, Italy (UPI) — At 15, Via Battista 39 in this Mediterranean seaport on the coast of Italy's boot, 15-year-old Cataldo Ranieri does a man's work in a manner that would make any man proud.

Cataldo is probably the world's youngest tire dealer. He not only sells tires through his own dealership, but services customers cars, repairs tires and tubes, handles contracting, delivery, stock ordering and all correspondence needed to conduct his business.

It is not unusual for a 15-year-old boy in Italy to hold down a full time job. The average boy, Cataldo's age in Tarranto earns the equivalent of about \$1.50 a day.

In Cataldo's case, there are many differences. He earns enough with the Goodyear dealership to support his entire family — with something to spare. The family consists of himself, his mother, his brother, Aldo, 9, a younger sister, Rita, 11, and an older sister, Lucia, 18 who is attending a secretarial school.

When Cataldo's father died last fall at the age of 47, he bequeathed the business to his eldest son.

The family considered selling the dealership because of Cataldo's age. He was just two months past 15. But Cataldo plunged into the business, working 11 to 12 hours a day, and was able to show a marked increase in business within the first six months.

The tall, dark-haired boy gives the impression of being a little older, but not much. His customers and neighbors judge him as a good businessman who "knows what he is up to and knows how to make himself respected."

In spite of all this, Cataldo won't be able to legally drive a car himself for three more years. In Italy, the age for getting a driver's license is 18.

But there's some balm. At 16, the young tire dealer who can take cars apart and put them together again will be able to ap-



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