

John Wieland, a gold miner, baker and beer baron, was a charter member of the Dolphin Club. When he died in 1885, his family commissioned the construction of a magnificent new boat for the Club as a tribute in his memory. This boat, named for Wieland himself, was launched in 1887. It has served as the flagship of the Club's rowing fleet ever since.

Not being quite a ship of the line of the Navy, the *John Wieland* has come to us with little history recorded about her voyages in the century since her original launching. Old timers recall that one time she nearly sank off Alcatraz with a cargo of horse manure, that she transported Club members to Candlestick for the ball games, that she regularly served as a team bus for softball competitions on Angel Island, and that she frequently contributed to the public safety by keeping Club members off the state highways on return trips from Sam's in Tiburon and other bayside watering holes.

Perhaps the details of this hard usage were better left unrecorded. However, by the late 1980's, the *Wieland* was showing desperate signs of age and wear. She leaked. Blows to the side had stove in and cracked her sheer strake. Short term repairs had caused stress to the planking at the turn of the bilge and had fractured it. In order to permit a

new keelson to be installed in a repair job done in the 1970's, every frame had been cut at the center-line, destroying the frames' main job of tying one side of the boat to the other. The oarlock mounts had worked loose. While her copper rivets had survived, her numerous steel, bronze and brass fastenings had largely disintegrated. In short, the old *Wieland* was very tired after a century.

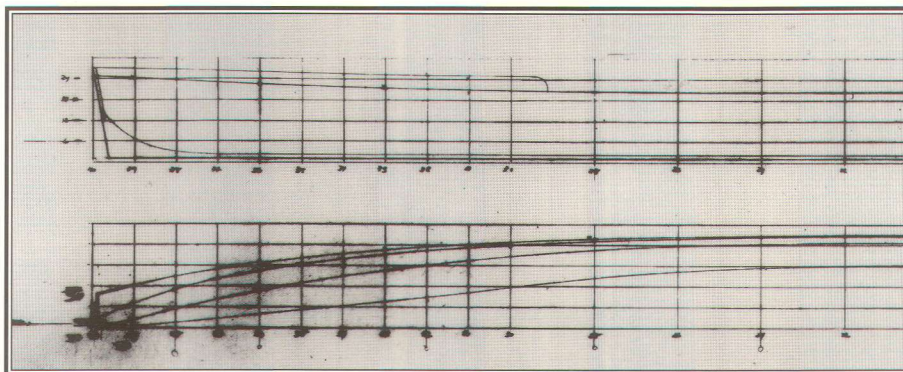
To remedy this condition, the Dolphin Club Board of Governors approved rebuilding the *Wieland*. After a last row around Alameda, the place of her construction in 1887, the *Wieland* was decommissioned in December 1991 and placed



*Early in the restoration process in the spring of 1994, most of the original planks and ribs are still in place, and the molds are in position. The lofting of the vessel can be seen on the shop wall behind the volunteers.*

in the Dolphin Club boatshop.

With help from Tuesday "boat night" volunteers, boatbuilder Jon Bielinski took off the *Wieland's* measurements and lofted her lines. With this information, he constructed molds to



*A portion of the lines drawing of the John Wieland as drawn by Dolphin Club volunteers of the vessel are as follows: length, 40'; beam, 54"; length of sweep oar*