

SF
clubs
1893

SF Chronicle Sun July 30, 1893:

"The Salvation Army is to have a launch early this week, and there will be a big time over it, too. The new Salvation Army cruiser is at present on the ways in a lumber yard at the corner of Spear and Main streets, where a small army of red-shirted mechanics are busy putting on the finishing touches and getting the craft ready for carrying the war into the enemy's quarters along the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and around San Francisco bay.

"The new cruiser was built for war and earned quite a record long before the Salvation Army got hold of her, for she was once the property of the United States and was attached to the old Hartford as captain's gig for many years. The boat is well known to all old man-of-war-men as the fastest gig that ever was in the service, and has won more races than any other boat that ever carried the Stars and Stripes. While the Hartford was in China on her last cruise the old gig, manned by a sturdy crew of Tankee sailors, met and defeated the fastest boats belonging to the war ships of every nation represented in Chinese waters. They all had a try at her, and the crew of the Hartford won many thousands of dollars on her. During a career of nearly fifteen years the fleet little gig was the unconquered champion of the United States navy. Her racing days are over now, and a naptha engine will take the place of ashen oars and strong-armed sailors as a motive power. Her appearance has been changed so that not one of the brawny tars who rowed to victory in her so often would know her again. A pretty little bronze propeller has been put in her just forward of the rudder, and a short deck has been built forward, while a neat awning and cockpit finished in hardwoods give her as natty an appearance as any craft of her size and on the bay can boast of. The Army got hold of the gig about two months ago, and began fitting her out to take the place of the first cruiser they sent out, and which proved a miserable failure and had to be abandoned.

"There are first-class mechanics of all kinds in the army, and every bit of work done on the new cruiser has been done by members of the army. Carpenters, painters, machinists and engineers dropped hymn books and tamborines to work on the vessel, and now she is almost ready for launching. The engine, although small, is quite powerful, and Captain J. Smith, who will command her, is confident that she will make at least eight knots an hour. The honor of naming the little craft has been reserved for Mrs Keppel, wife of Major Keppel. The entire army, at least that part of it stationed in San Francisco and Oakland, will turn out to the launch and a glorious time is expected.

"Her first work will be to carry a corps of the Salvationists off to the ships in the stream, and after every ship in port has been visited, she will carry the red-shirted soldiers up the river on a three months' cruise against the devil." (small sketch)

*Very interested to
what happened to
the old Hartford's
and other boats*

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