

# History of Nonsuch is Recalled

by BARBARA JONES

A Bermudian is pleased at the plans for the development of the Nonsuch Training School on Paget Island. He is Arthur St. George Tucker, who founded the school in 1934.

Mr. Tucker, who retired in 1958, can hear today the echo of many of the ideas which he had for the school and which he endeavoured to put into practice.

His father was the late Canon Arthur Tudor Tucker who was born in England of Bermudian parents, brought up in Nova Scotia, ordained in Bermuda and was back in Nova Scotia when his son, Arthur, was born. He returned here to stay as the beloved rector of St. George's.

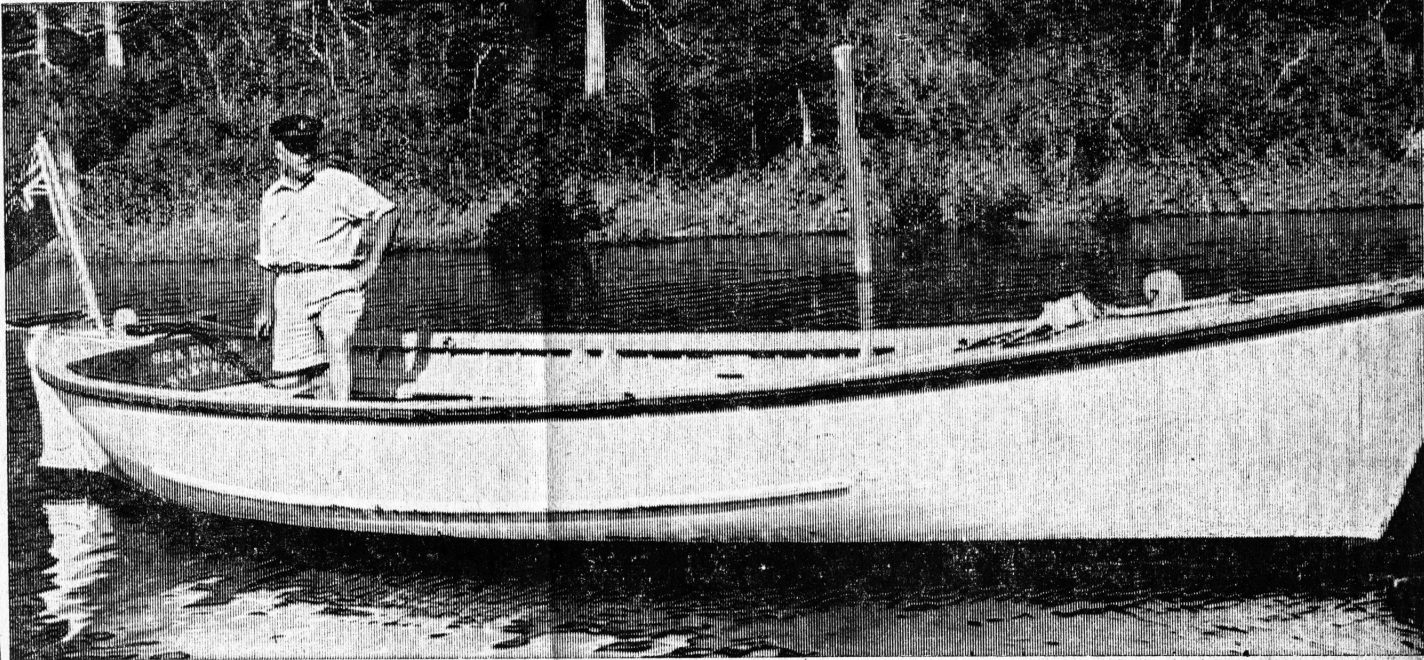
## Lake Shelter

His son, Arthur St. George, has a treasure of memories in an old scrap-book mainly concerned with the Training School. One of the many projects which were realised during his period of service was the construction of a lake shelter for boats. During one of the more severe storms which hit Bermuda in 1953 many boats were afforded shelter and safety in the harbour.

Mr. Tucker supervised the building of the Sea Horse, a boat which ferried sick boys, expectant mothers among staff wives and supplies. Many boys were trained in the art of seamanship.

## Naval Uniform

For generations boys who ran afoul of the law had been put



The Sea Horse in which many Nonsuch boys learned the rudiments of a seaman's life. The boat was built especially for the school early in its history.

into gaol and came out unreformed after mingling with hardened prisoners. Once on Nonsuch, however, they were put into naval uniform and began the routine of a seaman's life.

The Nonsuch boys also learned to farm and cook, and those who showed aptitude for a trade were encouraged to follow their bent.

By the beneficence of a prominent Hamilton merchant years ago, boys began to receive remuneration for their work. The donor of the necessary funds — estimated at between £50 to £100 annually — said that the boys at Nonsuch Training School were being taught many practical things and it was up to the community at a subsequent date to understand their situation. (The school was then no longer in its previous category — under the Police Department — but under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education.)

## Awarded M.B.E.

In December, 1944, Mr. Tucker was awarded the M.B.E. for his work at the Nonsuch Training School. He was presented with his insignia by the then acting Governor, the Hon. W. E. Murphy.

The entire school was moved from Nonsuch Island to Paget Island in 1948 when it was thought by the Americans that they might need Nonsuch for the protection of the base. At that time it was anticipated that it would take ten years' work to clear land for farms and smooth sections for playgrounds in addition to opening an island lake to provide a harbour for boats.

Regarding the construction of the latter, it was stated in an article a year later that "exceptional practical and scientific value is likely to accrue from the unique development."

## Scientists Interested

The project was watched with interest by scientists at the Biological Station whose query was: What happens when a body of water which has been stagnant for many, many years suddenly acquires living organisms?

During the same year, the Department of Agriculture, which had already assisted Mr. Tucker in starting a citrus orchard, approved a plan for breeding a high producing herd of goats.

Before the arrival of the Department of Agriculture officials, Mr. Tucker had made a good beginning with a vegetable garden which lay in a protected valley. The ground for the orchard was cleared by enthusiastic boys and ringed by green cedars to prevent exposure to destructive winds. Plans were made for the instruction of the boys in pest control by the offi-

cial of the Department of Agriculture.

Operating the school at that time were Mr. Arthur St. George Tucker, superintendent; Mrs. Tucker, matron; Mr. William Cox, first assistant; Mr. George Foster, second assistant; and Mrs. George Foster, assistant matron.

In 1958, at the age of 62, Mr. Tucker retired for health reasons. At that time he said that a little over 80 per cent of the boys had not been repeat offenders. A bad period two years before his retirement, Mr. Tucker said, had lowered the average.

Mr. Arthur T. Tucker, son of Mr. Arthur St. George Tucker, said recently that his father greatly admired the approved school system founded by Alexander Patterson in London and he tried to run the Nonsuch Training School on the same lines.