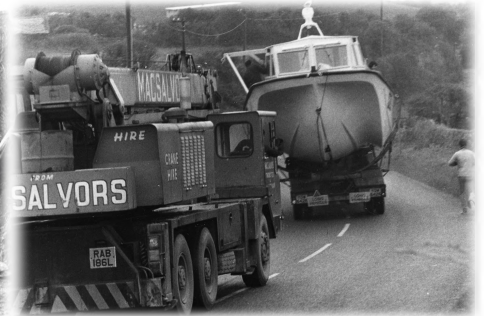


Jack & Peter's boat FRANCIS KATE

In 1977 Jack and Peter Rowe commissioned local boat builder, Rod Baker, founder of Port Isaac Bay Marine, to design and build a 38 foot fast Potting Dory to be named FRANCIS KATE. This fine vessel combined a number of unique features and was the largest fishing boat working from the harbour at that time. Their specification called for speed and stability with high carrying capacity, combined with the ability to work from a harbour that dried. The aim was to fish out as far as the Lundy Island grounds, some 40 miles from Port Isaac and East along the North Devon coast. Power was provided by twin in board/outboard engines of 150 HP each to enable her to plane with a full load at 18 knots - for the full story see the separate *Fishing News* article displayed separately.



The barn up at Trewetha where the FRANCIS KATE was built and launching day - a day to remember



Tracey Greenhalgh (nee Andrews) remembers the day the FRANCIS KATE was launched. "It was such a special day. I was still a pupil at Port Isaac School (now the Old School Hotel). The whole school was so excited - it was a really big day for us - and we all were allowed into the playground to hang over the wall and watch FRANCIS KATE coming into Port Isaac harbour for the first time."



FRANCIS KATE remained working from Port Isaac through to January 1985 when sold to continue her fishing career in Holyhead, having fished from Port Isaac for over seven years. She is now known to be continuing her active fishing life as a Crabber, fishing up to 100 miles out into the English Channel.



FRANCIS KATE became a regular visitor to Lundy Island, the two brothers often spending up to three or four days at a time working the surrounding fishing grounds. On one occasion they broke off from fishing to help the large paddle Steamer WAVERLEY. Jack recalls that the Captain contacted them by radio to request assistance to transfer his visiting passengers speedily from the Island as he was running short of tide. Jack and Peter thdropped everything and acted as a ferry service re-embarking 700 passengers, 120 at a time, from Lundy Island safely back on board the historic paddle steamer.