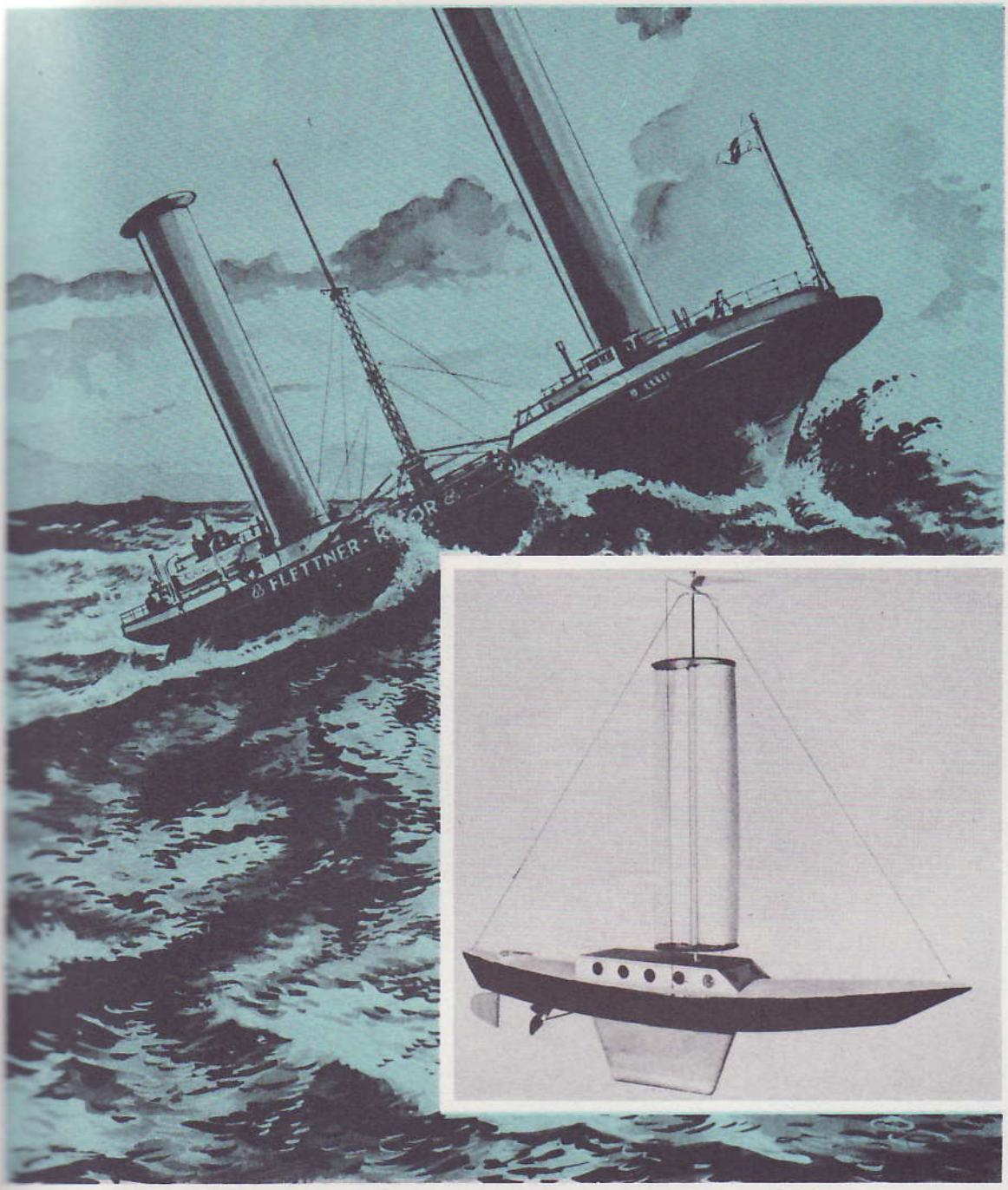


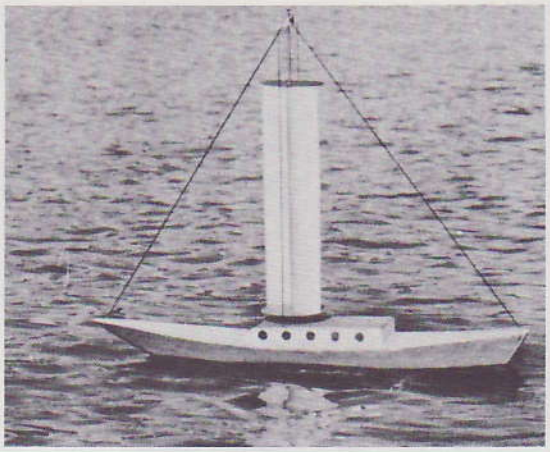
Modeling a rotor sailing ship

BY ROY L. CLOUGH, JR.

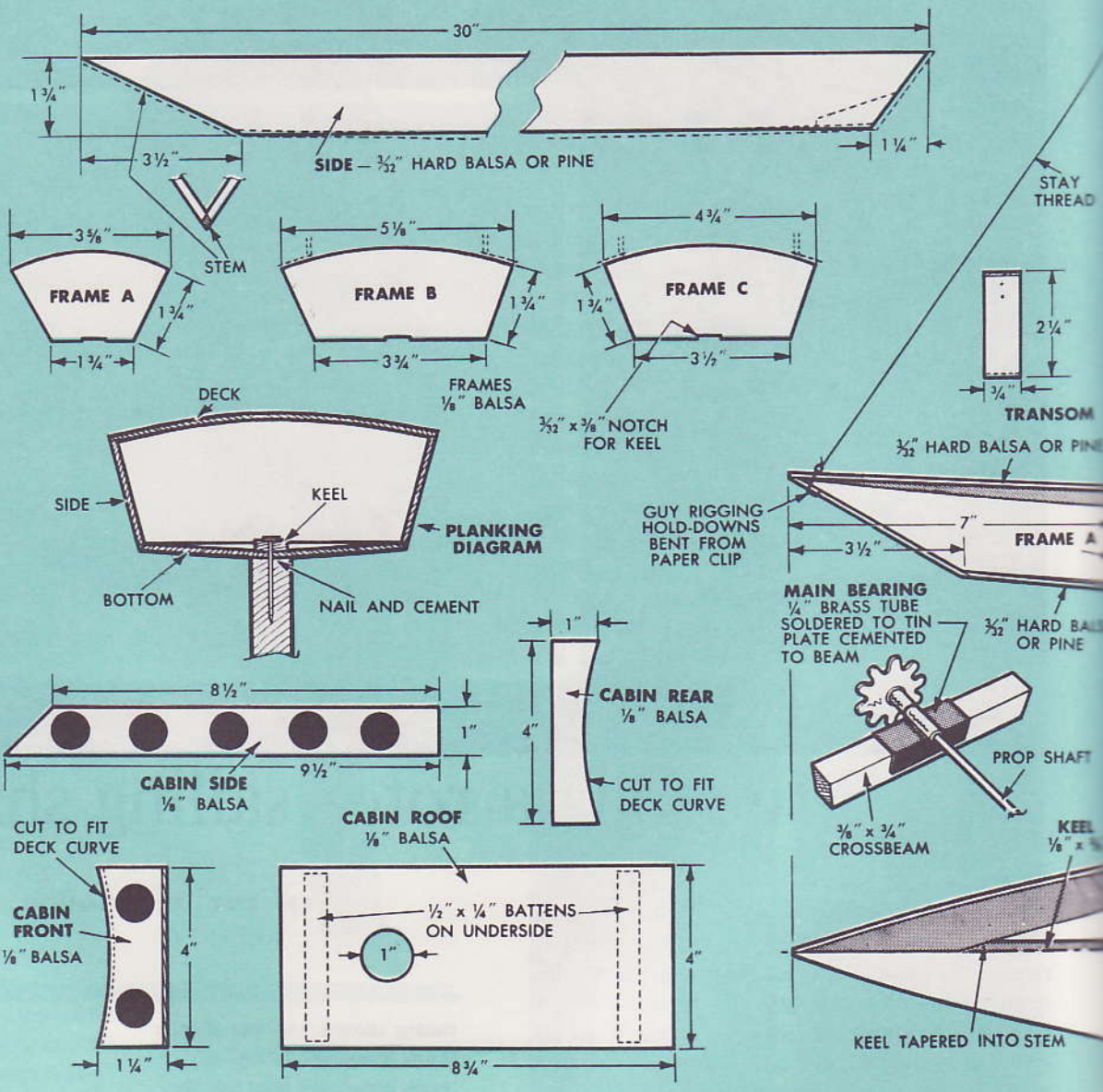
ANTON FLETTNER's famous rotor ship *Buckau* was propelled by spinning drums upon which the wind acted to produce thrust. While it required a small motor to spin these rotors, the main source of power was the wind harnessed through the Magnus effect—if a drum is set to spinning in a wind, a thrust vector is produced at 90 deg. from wind impingement.

Unlike the original rotor ship, this little model

rotting stumps: see tree stumps
rough idling: see idling, auto
rough water: see boat handling



A rotor sailer makes the best speed when the wind is on the port beam. At varying angles in front of the wind the speed will vary with the thrust vector resultant



Gears which link the rotor to the propeller may be salvaged from any clockwork mechanism. However, be sure to mount them so they mesh perfectly and work easily