



### **Dan Moore (AGR-9, 1962-65)**

While the Investigator was on station we got the word that a sail boat was enroute from Bermuda to Boston when she hit a storm and lost her mast. She was floundering in some pretty heavy seas. We were the closest ship to her, so we received orders to go to her assistance. On the way to her position we made our preparations to handle anything which she might need; food, water, medical supplies, pumps, etc.

When we got close we lowered a whale boat loaded with all the equipment to help the sail boat. That little whale boat was in danger itself in those heavy seas, but it was the law of the sea to give help to a ship in trouble. The gallant crew of the whale boat, using all of their nautical skills, managed to bring their boat alongside the sail boat, and, while being tossed about (can you imagine being in a whale boat in 20 foot seas and 30 knot winds?), the boat officer called out to the mastless sail boat, "Ahoy, the Black Hawk, (for that was her name) can we be of any assistance to you?" From the interior of the floundering, helpless sail boat came a drunken voice, "have ya got any shigarettes?" To make a long story short, we learned that the people on the Black Hawk feared that if they were taken off their boat anyone, by the right of salvage, could take possession of the hulk and its contents, so they were planning on drinking all of the booze they had on board before they would leave the boat.

We had one PO'd whale boat crew that returned to the ship. Since the people on board didn't want our help, we notified the Coast Guard which sent out a cutter which towed the sail boat ashore.