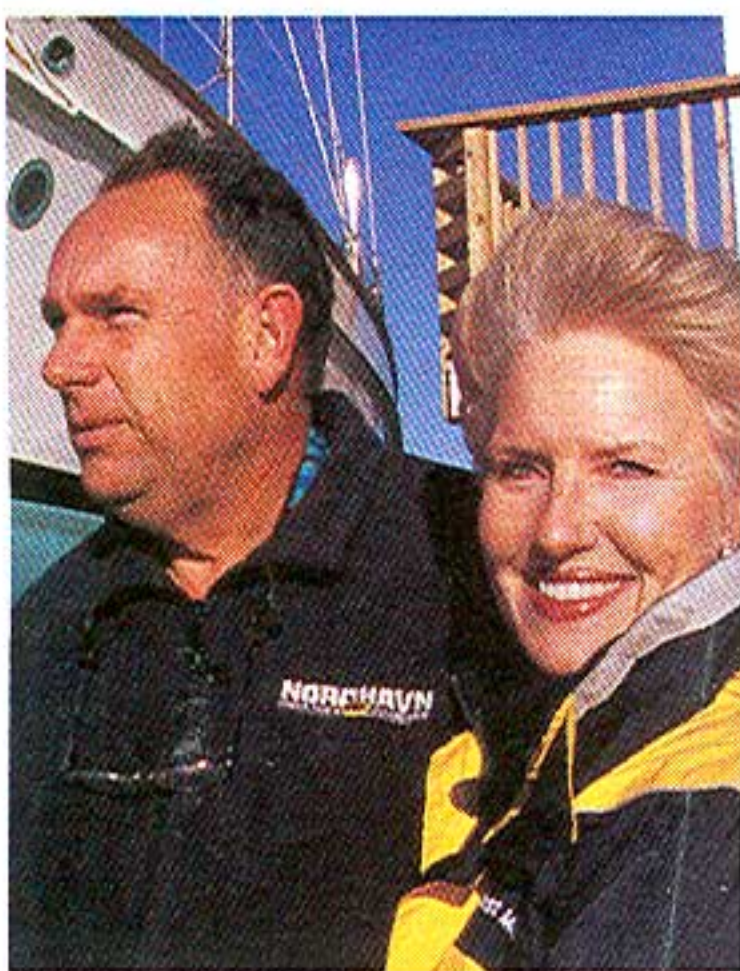
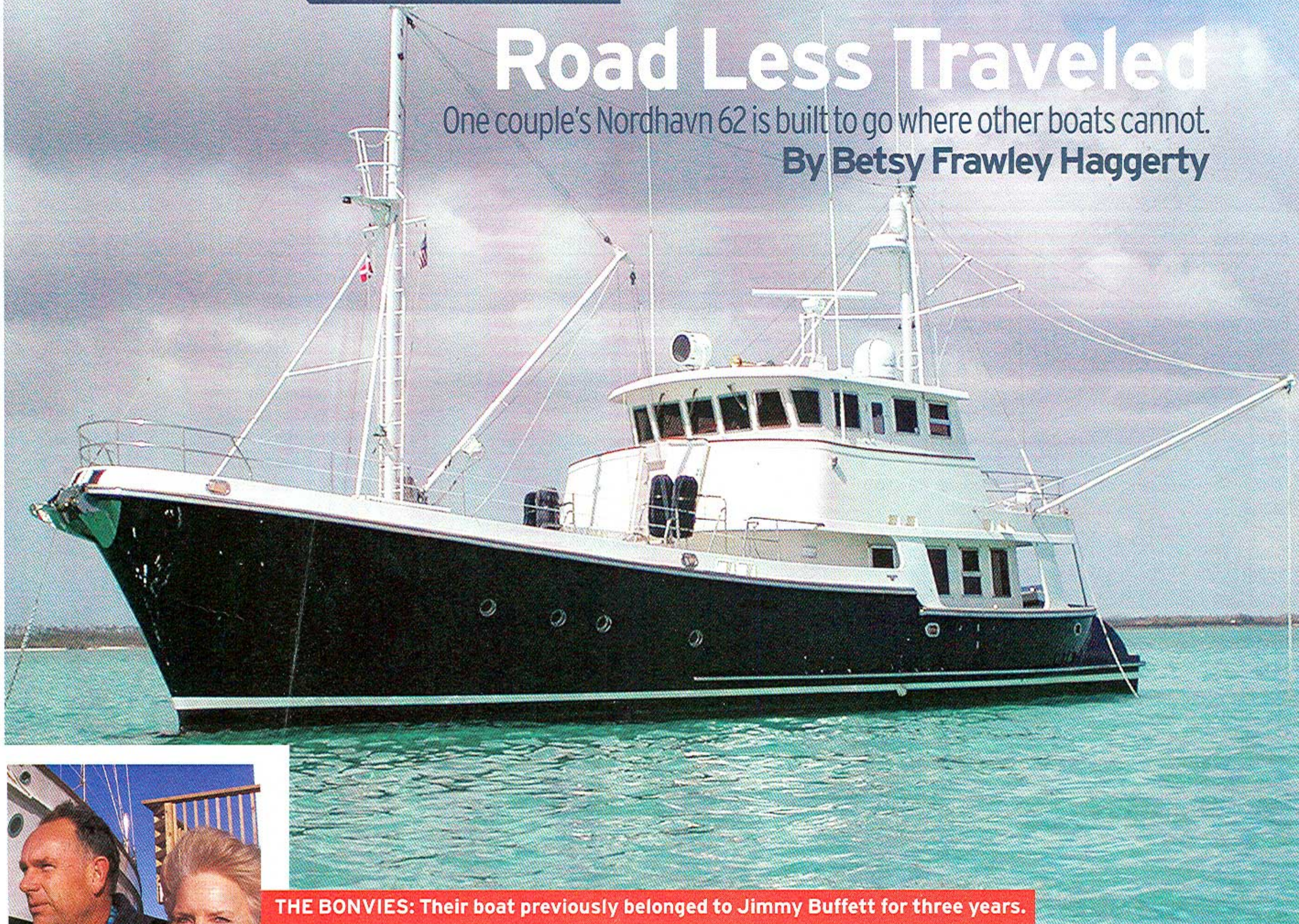


Road Less Traveled

One couple's Nordhavn 62 is built to go where other boats cannot.

By Betsy Frawley Haggerty



THE BONVIES: Their boat previously belonged to Jimmy Buffett for three years.

AARON LECLERC

NINE YEARS AGO RON

Bonvie picked up a Nordhavn brochure at a boat show and fell in love with the model on the cover—a 62-footer. “Now that’s the boat I’d like to own someday,” he said to himself. But the time wasn’t right, so he put the brochure in the top drawer of his desk and went about his life, developing real estate, flying airplanes and heli-

copters, restoring antique cars and motorcycles and doing lots of offshore sailing on other people’s boats.

Fast forward to 2003: After months of looking at large cruising vessels, Ron and his wife, Donna, find their dream boat in Oregon, a Nordhavn 62. “I’d forgotten all

about that brochure,” Ron says, but when he came across it later, he discovered that his new boat was the very same boat—hull number two—he had coveted years before.

Meanwhile the boat, now called *Bonne Vie* (the good life, in French), had some adventures of its own. For three years it belonged to Jimmy Buffett, who used it extensively in the Caribbean. Buffett, says Ron, took good care of the boat, but his palm-tree upholstery didn’t match the Bonvies’s taste. “We just kept a couple of his pillows,” says Donna.

Ron and Donna, who each hold U.S. Coast Guard 100-ton Masters licenses, took the boat to Vancouver, B.C., for an extensive refit. Then they came home to Cape Cod, Mass., via the Panama Canal. “The boat was spectacular,” says Ron, who loves offshore cruising. “We were in constant 10- to 12-foot seas, some of which were abeam, and we were watching TV.” The Bonvies also enjoy the boat’s range: 3,000 miles at 9.2 knots. Says Ron, “I wouldn’t mind doing the Amazon someday.”

“The Nordhavn is spectacular in constant 12-foot seas. We can watch TV.”

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