The History of the Sleipner

When I was a junior and in the spring semester of 1969 the Lute Varsity Rowing Club purchased a new wooden eight. The shell was named "Sleipne" after the Norwegian god Odin's horse who was according to legend "swift and powerful". There was however an argument between one of the oarsman, Arne Ness, and the Commodore, James Ojala, that the name Sleipne was spelled wrong. According to Ness, who speaks Norwegian fluently and who has seen the Norwegian race boat named Sleipner, the name was supposed to be spelled "Sleipner". However, according to Ojala, the name was spelled without the "r" because the Norwegian professor, Audun Toven, said that it was spelled "Sleipne". An argument began, but the result was that Ojala said that since the painter had left, the name "Sleipne" would stand. The shell was stored in the old shell house on the top of the hill, and to this day I still remember it there; so bright, beautiful, and proud sitting amongst the other older shells. What a joy to remember it now, its sleek new wooden hull, its beautiful wood and its beautiful smooth lines. Oh the memories of that wooden boat. Those plastic bathtubs of today have no feelings, just a shiny white surface.

Roger Hansen 1966 to 1970

I'll relate to you next time on the wooden four, the Walter E. Neils.