

CARIAD READY FOR SEA IN 18 MONTHS

ONE of the world's historical-ly famous yachts, Cariad I, which has been lying dock-bound and was methodically stripped at the repair wharf in Durban harbour five years ago, is being fitted out for world sea cruises and is likely to undergo trials within the next 18 months.

Cariad was recently bought by a group of enthusiastic young South African businessmen, and construction work has surged ahead. Late yesterday afternoon the diesel engine, weighing about a ton, was hoisted into position by a crane.

REFITTED

The insides of the hull have already been refitted and painted out, with galvanised water and fuel tanks due to be installed shortly.

Mr. K. Sutic, 26, one of the owners of the 100ft. vessel, said that they expect to spend over R20,000 on the yacht and intend maintaining their working schedule so as to complete the vessel by early 1969.

Although Mr. Sutic would not disclose the cost of Cariad when he bought her from Mr. L. C. M. Rattray in August this year, he described it as

“a generously low figure.”

“As far as possible, we are using all the original materials, which include beautifully hand-carved English oak fittings and we are also modernising the appointments by including such things as hot and cold running water and the latest in navigational equipment.”

Although Mr. Sutic admitted to not having had much yachting experience, the buying of Cariad was a fulfilment of one of his greatest wishes.

There are many stories surrounding the yacht's 71 years' adventurous use, and Cariad has sailed around the world on numerous occasions. She had as her passengers the late King George V and Queen Mary in her luxurious cabins.

SLOW CRUISES

It is hoped by her new owners that the yacht will eventually be chartered for “slow cruises meandering into all the interesting ports of the world.”

Considering that there are at least 8000 people who charter vessels in the West Indies alone each year, Mr. Sutic said Cariad would be ideal for this type of sailing, as well as providing the best in accommodation.

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