



## JOHN HAS SAILED ALONE FOR 3 YEARS

**JOHN SOWDEN**, a 49-year-old American bachelor sailed his 25ft. masthead sloop single-handed into Durban's yacht basin this week—more than three years after buying the craft he originally intended to use as a weekend pleasure cruiser.

Instead of using the yacht as a pleasure vessel, however, John will soon be one of the select few to have circumnavigated the globe single-handed.

And, provided he stops in Spain on his return voyage, John will have achieved the unusual feat of crossing the Atlantic twice — in one circumnavigation.

Less than a week after he bought the vessel in October, 1966, as a yachting world five-tonner, John rigged his yacht into a masthead sloop.

"I then decided to get cracking and soon had the yacht seaworthy enough to sail me from Palma de Mallorca to the Canary Islands. I was not impressed and pushed on to the Caribbean."

And so it went on.

Now, after sailing nearly 40,000 miles, with little drama, John has finally reached the last leg of his round-the-world voyage.

Asked if he had been lonely on his trip John replied: "Not at all. I've never worked so hard in all my life."

John leaves for Cape Town in January.