

19.7.20

Rio yacht's link with history



NEW crewman Alan Richards.

Staff Reporter

DURBAN. — The great-nephew of Mr. A. W. Flitten, the first South African to circumnavigate the world in the yacht *Cariad*, is to follow in his uncle's wake by sailing aboard her in the Cape-to-Rio race in January.

Alan Richards, a second-year B. Com. student at Port Elizabeth University, will use his long summer vacation to become part of the crew of 14, including a girl, of the yacht which is being sponsored by the Sunday Tribune in its bid to win the international race.

He arrived in Durban this week to meet the *Cariad*'s skipper, Krasni Sutic, and put in a spell of work on the boat at Durban's bayhead.

Alan, who spent a year in the Navy and sailed for the Navy in the Western Province sailing championships, said: "I've always wanted to take part in the Rio race and I can't think of a better boat to go on than *Cariad*. Now I've met the chaps who own the boat, I'm really looking forward to January."

HARD WORKER

Krasni said: "We are pleased to have him aboard. He's a hard worker and just the sort of crewman we need."

Meanwhile, in memory of Mr. Flitten, his relatives have donated R700 towards the fund for a sail for the yacht that he loved so much.

After a long search in England, "Flit" found *Cariad* virtually derelict on a mud bank in 1946. He had the former favourite of King George V refitted and sailed her to South Africa in 1947.

After a year's preparation in Cape Town, he set sail in 1948 on his first voyage round the world which lasted more than two years.

Cariad lay at anchor in Cape Town harbour from 1954 to 1955.

She was sold and led a somewhat chequered career until Krasni Sutic and his friends found her three years ago. Since then, they have poured more than R30 000 and months of work into *Cariad* to make her fit for a king again.

With public donations and the R700, the fund for *Cariad*'s new sails is well under way.