

# Fortune smiles on yacht charter couple

**Weekend Post Reporter**  
FORTUNE is smiling on a Redhouse, Port Elizabeth, man who is chartering his yacht in the Caribbean after a long and troublesome saga following its theft from Cape Town.

Mr Nelson Girdlestone and his wife, Maureen, "are making very good money", his mother, Mrs Jean Girdlestone, said today.

"Lots of rich Americans are going to St Martin Island, where Nelson and Maureen are based. They're getting as much charter work as they can handle.

"They'll be coming back to South Africa at some stage but at the moment business is good and they're making money to compensate for all the repairs that had to be done after the yacht was stolen."

About two years ago the

yacht, *Alter Ego*, went missing from the Royal Cape Yacht Club after two men handed over a cheque for R190 000 for it.

The cheque bounced.

Several months later, with the help of Interpol, the yacht was found in the Caribbean.

The two men were prosecuted and found guilty of theft, but instead of being extradited to South Africa, as was suggested in court, they were flown to sanctuary in Ireland by the Irish Government.

The whole Girdlestone family had to rally round to get the yacht into trim again.

"It was in a dreadful condition," Mrs Girdlestone said. "Nelson had to come back to South Africa to get engine parts."

His two sons flew out to help him with the work.