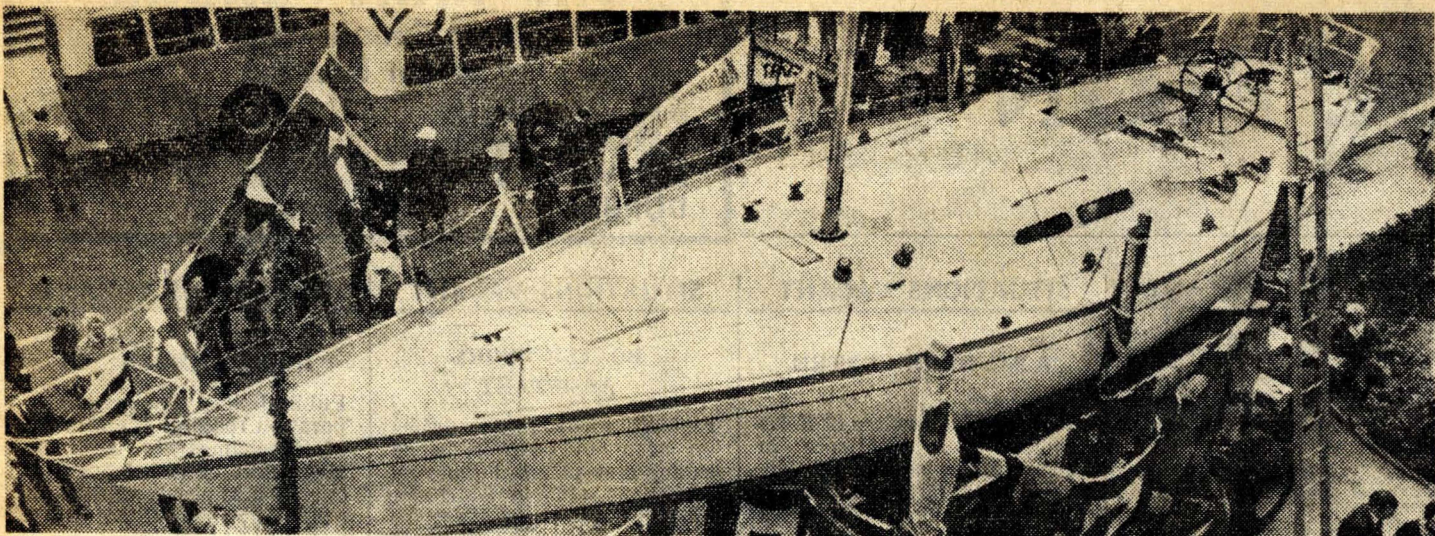




# ONCE, TWICE ... MERCURY SPREADS HER SAILS

"Mercury" Reporter

THERE'S an old saying among yachtsmen that everything aboard a yacht has to be done twice. And yesterday's commissioning ceremony of the ocean yacht Mercury, in front of the Durban City Hall, proved the truth of that saying.

After Mrs. Kenau Havemann, wife of the Administrator of Natal, had named and blessed the 13-metre (42ft) Rio racer, the bottle of champagne thudded against the bow without breaking.

Before the crowd of distinguished guests could draw a breath, crewmember Barry Cullen — the man who sailed the ketch Sandefjord around the world — leaped up on to the dais, took hold of the champagne bottle and hurled it at the yacht with all his strength.

## BURST

The bottle burst, and the crowd clapped. "It always happens," said Barry. "On Sandefjord we had three goes before the bottle burst."

Mr. Gordon Neill, chairman of the Natal Ocean Racing Foundation, which is sponsoring the Mercury, said:

"This magnificent yacht has been provided to help cement Natal's relationships with nations across the seas, and it is the intention, once the Cape to Rio race has been successfully concluded—and by this I mean won—to have capable yachtsmen from this province sail the Mercury in Europe, the Americas, Australia, Britain and elsewhere."

Mr. Raoul Goldman, Mayor of Durban, said afterwards at a civic reception attended by more than 400 guests, including the Mayors of Pietermaritzburg, Kloof, Pinetown and Glenashley, that Mercury would bring much goodwill and prestige for Natal.

"The Natal Ocean Racing Foundation has set a target of R75 000 to pay for the yacht," he said. "They have already collected R10 000 — so there is only R65 000 to go."

THIS seagull's-eye view of the sleek ocean racing yacht Mercury shows her graceful lines and clean-swept deck.



THE NAVIGATOR of the Mercury saves the day. Barry Cullen, a crew member of the Mercury, smashes a bottle of champagne against the bow of the seven-ton yacht outside the Durban City Hall when the first attempt by Mrs. Havemann failed.

1970 10 14 - Mercury

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