

# more MIDGET MAGELLANS

REPORTS AND PICTURES BY BIANCA LAVIES

## Zulane Home to Durban . . .

**A**FTER a 10-day trip from Knysna, where she was built, a 35-ft. Lodestar trimaran has arrived in Durban with a crew of five men and a girl.

These were her skipper-owner, Friek Potgieter, Mike Lester, George Higgins and Allen Trotter, all from Durban, Tom Schulz, a visiting yachtsman from the U.S.A., and Audrey Mullin from Bloemfontein.

"We had an excellent trip, and the best thing we did was to take a woman with us. Audrey cooked us delicious meals and was not a bit seasick," said the skipper.

Audrey, who is at school at Maritzburg, had applied to come along as crew. She motored to Knysna to join the trimaran.

"When all except two members of the crew were paralytic with seasickness when a force nine gale hit us off Plettenberg Bay, Audrey was not at all affected. I do not know what we would have done without her help," said Friek Potgieter.

"The trimaran took the gale very well," he said. "There were 25 ft. swells and the crests were continuously breaking over the deck. We carried storm canvas.

"We arrived in Port Elizabeth late on December 3 and left the next day at noon.

"We then had long periods of flat calms with some hours of wind in between. We arrived in East London on December 6 and left the same day.

"The only mishaps during the trip were when the main halliard got stuck and the rudder cable snapped just before entering Durban. Both we fixed at sea."

Friek Potgieter said that he will now prepare the *Zulane*

**BELOW:** The crew of the trimaran *Zulane* after arrival in Durban from Knysna, from left: George Higgins, Tom Schultz, Friek Potgieter, her skipper and owner, Audrey Mullin, Mike Lester and Allan Trotter.

**BOTTOM:** Heinz and Sigrid Zenker from Canada, the crew of the 20 ft. yacht *Thaloca* a sistership of *Trekka*.



for a round-the-world trip, starting at the end of next year.

He is looking for a new crew.

## Sistership to Trekka . . .

**T**WO weeks after the arrival in Durban of *Trekka*, one of her sisterships arrived. It was the 20-ft. home-built yacht *Thaloca*, sailed by a Canadian couple, Heinz and Sigrid Zenker.

They built the craft in Canada and took it by road to California in 1963. After launching it there, they had intended to sail her through the Panama Canal and up the East Coast of America.

They spent three months in Central America and enjoyed the trip so much that, on arrival in Panama, they decided to get to the East Coast "the long way round" and do a round-the-world trip first.

They sailed to Tahiti, the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji and then New Zealand. Heinz, who is a shipwright, worked there on his trade for seven months. Then on to Australia where they were 2½ months up the Great Barrier Reef and then on to Christmas Island, Cocos, Rodrigues, Mauritius, Réunion and Durban.

The couple are naturalised Canadians, formerly of Germany.

A horrible experience happened to them during a gale between Tahiti and New Zealand.

"There were big seas," says Sigrid, "and I was doing two things at the same time, as so often happens at sea. One of them was boiling eggs. The gimbal was jammed and suddenly the pot of boiling water fell on top of me, burning me from waist to the knees. For 16 days I was flat in my bunk. The blisters that followed were enormous.

"But as it proved later we did the best thing we could have done. We did not break the blisters. This has prevented scarring and infection.

"Another experience we will not soon forget was when we broke our rudder shaft in heavy seas. For 1,500 miles we steered with a piece of plywood to our next port which was Rodrigues."

*Thaloca* means Goddess of the Gulf Stream.

The couple plan to spend a month in Durban.

They hope to be back in Canada in August.

## Man-sized Singlehander . . .

**A**CROCODILE hunter sailed single-handed into Durban harbour early on Saturday morning, December 11, on board his 52-ft. ketch *Dida* from the New Hebrides.

He is an Englishman, Geoffrey Mattheus, who bought his 34-year-old yacht in the New Hebrides two years ago after he had lost his first craft, a pearl lugger, which caught fire after a pressure stove exploded. He emigrated to Australia 16 years ago where he became a professional crocodile hunter.

"When the prospects for hunting crocodiles in Australia became bad, I went to New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the New Hebrides where I started pearling, crocodile shooting and trading between the islands.

"*Dida* is old but very sound. I bought her mainly because of her shallow draught—for crocodile shooting in the river creeks."

*Dida* has the unusual feature of a centreboard, which can be pulled up with the aid of a winch on deck.

The craft has a 5-ft. 3-in. draught with the board up and an 8-ft. 6-in. draught with the board down.

Geoffrey must be a record, as far as the size of handling a boat single-handed is concerned. His mainsail alone (at present made of canvas) weighs 300 lb. when wet.

"Crocodiles take a long time to breed," Geoffrey said, "and when they were all finished at the islands, I decided



**Crocodile hunter, pearl diver and trader Geoffrey Mattheus from the New Hebrides, who sailed his 52 ft. ketch *Dida* singlehanded into Durban. She was built in Portsmouth 34 years ago.**

to try my luck somewhere else. I am not quite sure what I am going to do now, but I want to investigate the possibility of chartering *Dida* in the West Indies.

"I left the New Hebrides in June with two crew members. One of them left at the Solomon Islands and one at Portuguese Timor. I decided then to build my self-steering gear and carry on single-handed.

"On October 31, I arrived in Mauritius, where I stayed for a month before continuing to Durban."

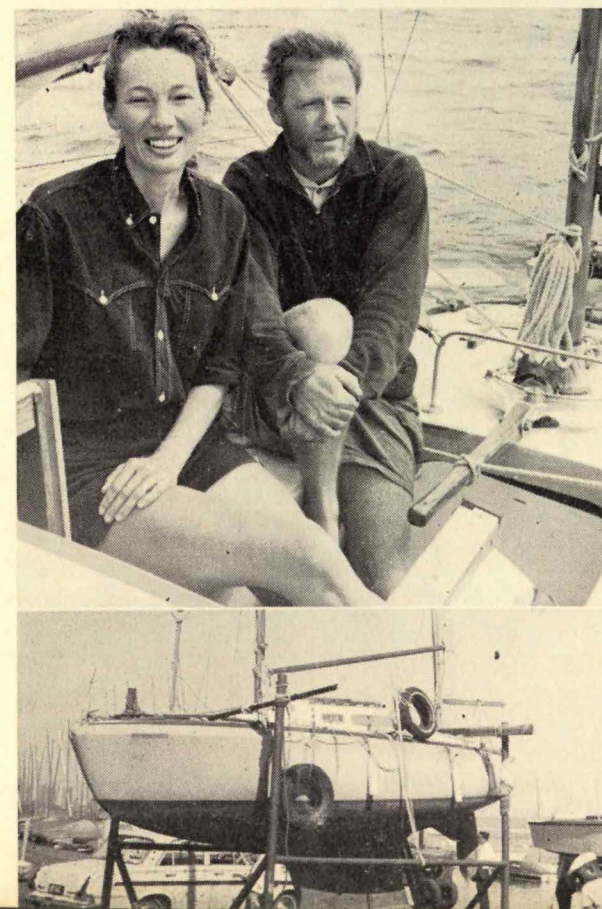
Geoffrey Mattheus finds single-handed sailing no problem. "I sleep when I am tired and eat when I am hungry."

"I usually wake up every two hours to check on things—and sometimes I have dinner at three o'clock in the morning."

He will stay in Durban for six weeks to carry out repairs and alterations to his craft and to have new sails made.

**BELOW:** Marian and Cliff Cain from California the crew of the well known yacht *Trekka*.

**BOTTOM:** *Trekka* out of the water a few days after he arrived in Durban. The picture clearly shows her finn-keel added after her construction as mentioned in the story.



## Trekka Back Again . . .

**I**N the smallest craft to call at Durban, since John Guzzwell sailed the same boat *Trekka* in here on his round-the-world trip seven years ago, Marian and Cliff Cain turned up suddenly early on a Sunday morning at the end of November.

They had left their home in California for a round-the-world trip in their yawl which is only 20 ft. 6 in. overall in length.

The Cains bought *Trekka* in June, 1963, in Southern California from her second owner. "For the next 15 months we struggled to get her and her crew ready to sail," said Cliff, "yet the effort was hardly a fraction of what a larger boat might have required, with a less simple approach to the necessities of life and perhaps a few inherent problems in hull or rig.

"When finally everything was aboard and the waterline to our amazement still showed half an inch, the tired skipper and mate finally cast off in the afternoon of June 22, 1964."

By way of Samoa and the Tonga islands they sailed to New Zealand where they worked for 4½ months during the hurricane season to replenish their finances.

"Cliff, who is really a teacher, worked as a shipwright and I worked in a hotel kitchen," said Marian.

Their last port of call before reaching Durban was Réunion, 15 days earlier.

"Our worst experience during the trip was a gale in the Tasman Sea, where we were thrown over on our beam ends till the mast was in the water. It scared the hell out of us," said Cliff.

"Generally, we are conservative sailors, as soon as it starts blowing we reef the sails."

Asked whether they had any previous deep-sea sailing experience before setting off on this trip, Cliff replied that he probably would never have made the trip if he had!

Eric Hiscock in his well-known book *Voyaging Under Sail* writes about their ship: "*Trekka*, 2½ tons, is little more than a large sailing dinghy with a fin keel added after construction. She is a typical example of what one might presume to be the smallest practical ocean cruiser. She was designed by Laurent Giles and Partners for John Guzzwell and built by him in Vancouver."

Marian and Cliff were pleased to discover on arrival in Durban that Frank Casper had arrived a few weeks earlier. "We have been following him for thousands of miles and, wherever we call in, people are always asking if we know him. We are dying to meet him by now."

The couple plan to stay in Durban till the first week in January when they will go to Europe where they plan to spend a year. They are planning to be back in California in August, 1967.

## Following Their Radio . . .

**A**FRENCH radio ham, Jean Jacques Terrason, on what he calls "a radio amateur's expedition", sailed into Durban with his wife Mildred in their 33-ft. ketch *Alalila*.

They left their home in Réunion for a round-the-world trip of "maybe five or eight years, or maybe longer, as the children are now grown up". (Mildred has four.)

During this trip they are hoping to meet the friends they have made in the past three years just by talking to them over the air, all over the world.

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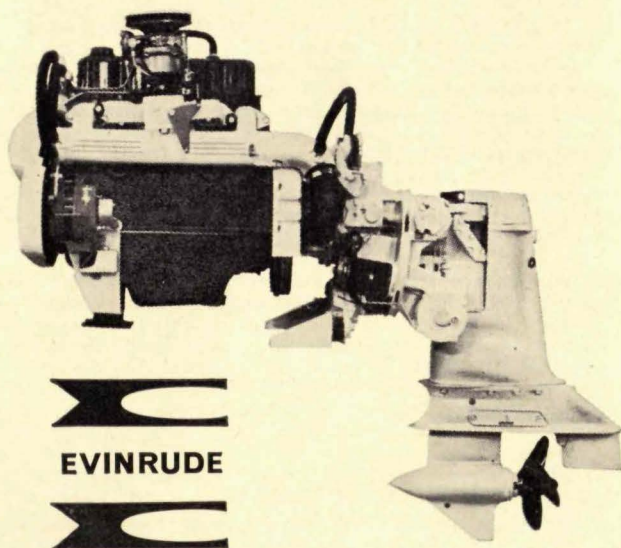
**BELOW:** *Alalila* just before launching. She claims to be the first yacht built in Reunion since the first white settlers arrived 300 years ago.

Jean Jacques and Mildred Terrason photographed shortly after their arrival in their 33 ft. ketch *Alalila*.



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Jean Jacques carries a card system indicating all their radio friends in each place they visit.

"We started building the boat five years ago," said Mildred, "and it was during this time that Jean Jacques came to be a radio ham".

Jean Jacques says that his boat is the first to be built in Réunion since the first White settlers came there 300 years ago.

Jean Jacques was born in France but has been living in Réunion for seven years. He paints, is an interior decorator and for the past seven years worked as an architect while saving for the trip.

This is Mildred's second visit to Durban. She arrived here with American Jim Cotton in September, 1962, in his 30-ft. ketch *Torea* when she did a trial trip "just to see whether she would like to live at sea".

The couple plan to spend at least a month carrying out repairs to the cockpit and the engine, and are also waiting for additional radio equipment.

They will then continue by the Cape and St. Helena to Houston in Texas where they hope to spend a year with radio friends. ■

This picture taken in the jungle of Reunion shows the start of "Alalila". The large tree in the middle of the picture behind the man in the foreground, is the tree from which Alalila's stem-post was made. The type of wood is called "black tree".

