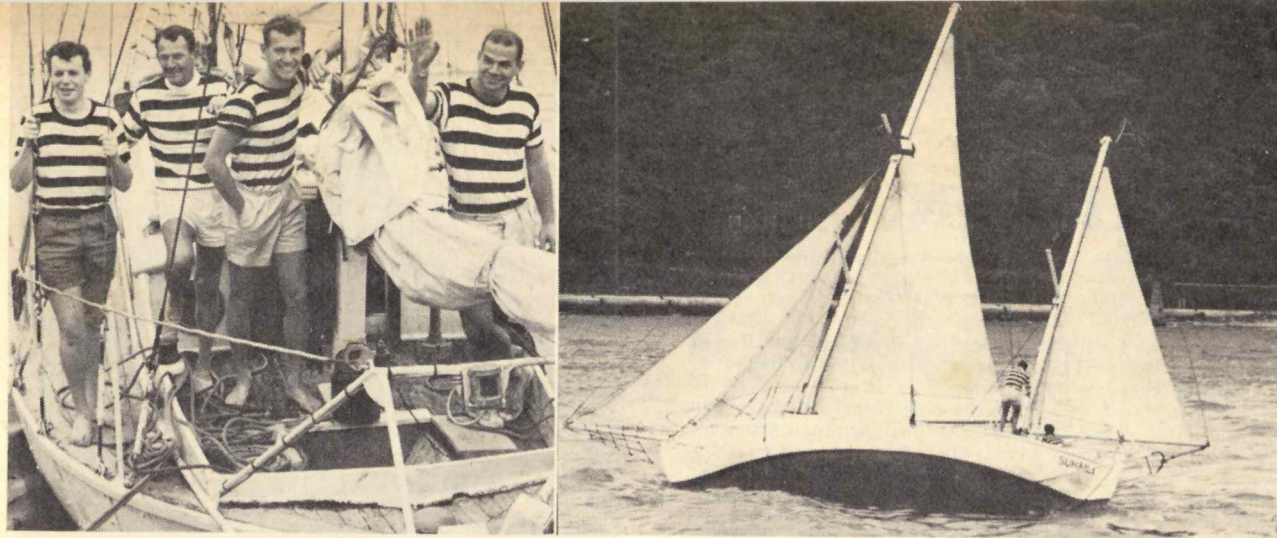




In from the . . . DEEP BLUE SEA



One of the pleasantest cruising couples to come through our ports were Dr. Bob and Nancy Griffiths and their young son Reid from Hawaii. Their cutter was also particularly interesting in that, although it was a sleek, canoe-sterned job with long overhangs, it happened to be made of concrete. Although the hull had been more than proved by their long voyage it has now had its final accolade by actually sailing round the southern tip of Cape Horn. Awahnee thus achieved the first east to west passage south of all the continents by a cruising yacht. With them, of course, was Clive Rouse, who signed on in South Africa and finally left the ship in Valparaiso. These pictures were sent from the deep south to Hadyn Jerram of Cape Town, who entertained the circumnavigators on their way round. He is well on the way to finishing a steel cutter to SA Yachting designs with the same waterline length as Awahnee, 35 ft., 1 1/2 tons displacement.

The 32-ft. Bombay-built ketch *Suhaili* left Durban to continue her trip to the United Kingdom after a seven-month stay. The craft has arrived safely at the Royal Cape Yacht Club basin.

Waving goodbye on departure at Durban are, from left: Chris Knox-Johnston, Neil Latimer, Bob Knox-Johnston (skipper) and Heinz Fingerhut.

Neil left the craft in East London.

From Cape Town *Suhaili* is planning to go straight through to the United Kingdom, but they may stop at St. Helena or Ascension Island. They are planning to arrive in London in March or April next year.

On the right the *Suhaili* is leaving Durban harbour still flying her Blue Peter.

Photos: Bianca Lavies

Canadian Family . . .

JUST after midnight recently a Canadian family sailed into Durban on their 37-ft. yacht *Kelea* after a two-week trip from Reunion Island. They are Charles and Leiv Kennedy and 11-year old Curtis.

At the yacht harbour the next morning they told about the worst gale since their trip started in Vancouver in September, 1965. It was the electrical storm which had hit Durban two days earlier.

"We were hove-to riding it out for 20 hours," said Leiv. "The wind was 65 m.p.h. first N.E. and then it veered to S.W. bringing the electrical storm."

"It was terrifying. Lightning bolts, like big balls of fire, fell within a mile of us. I was scared, particularly as we had an aluminium mast."

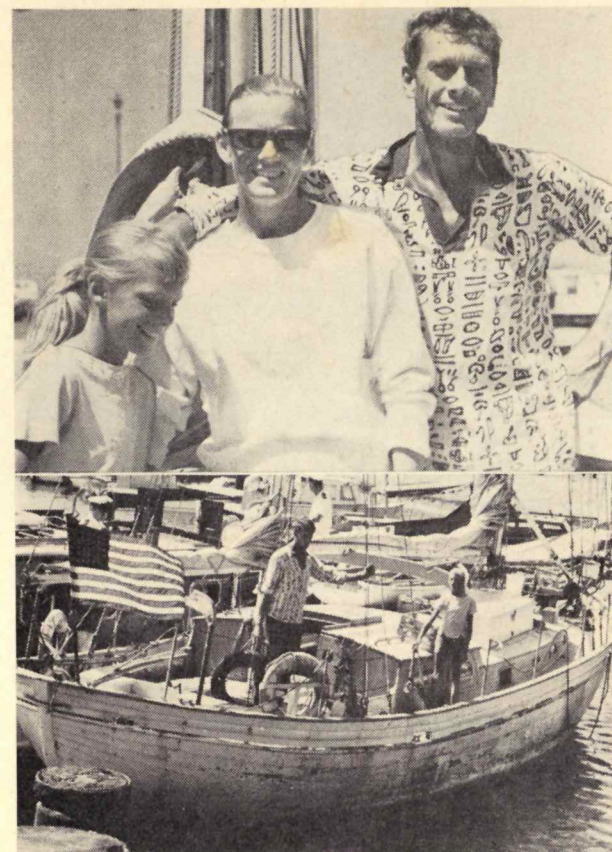
Said Curtis, however: "I was not a bit frightened. It was nothing like the gale we had off Bora Bora, as the seas then were much higher. No, I thought it was rather interesting. A new experience . . ."

Their luckiest escape had been when they were nearly run down by a ship from astern.

This was near Cocos. "Mum looked out about nine

BELOW: The 37-ft. Canadian cruising yacht *Kelea* lying at moorings in Durban, while at the bottom are her crew—Charles, Leiv and Curtis Kennedy.

Photo: Bianca Lavies



TOP: The Davenport family, Fred, Virginia and 10-year-old Circe, from California, who have been sailing round the world for the past six years.

ABOVE: The *Karen Margrethe* arriving in Durban.

Photo: Bianca Lavies

that evening to see a large Japanese bulk carrier only 200 ft. away from us. There was a tremendous wash from her bow," said Leiv. "We signalled, but there was no reply. They had obviously not seen us."

Their yacht is a Controversy 36 class designed by Farnham Butler. They had sailed to Hawaii, Tahiti, Tonga, Fiji, the Cook Islands, Australia, Christmas Island, Cocos, Rodrigues, Mauritius and Reunion.

They will spend some time in Durban. Charles, who is a pattern-maker, hopes to find work.

"I would like to work, too," said Leiv, "but my usual job as a skiing instructor should be hard to find!"

Leiv met Charles when he was a pupil in her skiing class in Vancouver four years ago. They are planning to be back home in two years.

Six Years at Sea . . .

A CALIFORNIAN family has sailed into Durban on board their 38-ft. yacht *Karen Margrethe*, their home for the past six years. They are Fred and Virginia Davenport and their 10-year-old daughter Circe.

After leaving San Diego in California in April, 1960, they sailed to the Marquesas, Tahiti, Bora Bora, Samoa, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, the Seychelles, Mombasa, Lourenço Marques and Durban.

The family will stay about a year in Durban, to send Circe to school.

"Schooling has been quite a problem," said Virginia. "She goes to school wherever we are for any amount of time. She spent 1 1/2 years at school in New Zealand and 1 1/2 years in Australia. For the rest of the time she follows a correspondence course."

Old friends greeting the Davenports on arrival at the jetty were Pat and Kurt Frost of the Australian yacht *Safari Too* which arrived before them.

They last saw each other in Sydney 2 1/2 years ago, when Kurt was still building *Safari Too*.

Fred is a photographer, but does not earn his living that way during the trip. "I have thousands of negatives," he said. "Developing during the voyage is no problem, but the enlarging and printing is."

The *Karen Margrethe* is 21 years old. She was designed by Berg, a Danish designer and built in Copenhagen. Her beam is 11 1/2 ft.

The family plan to continue their trip round the Cape and through the Panama Canal and to settle eventually in Hawaii in about five years time.

German Circumnavigators . . .

GEORGE and Elga Koch, who think they are the first German couple to sail around the world in a small yacht, have arrived in Durban.

They have owned their 32-ft. steel-hulled centreboard sloop *Kairos* for 10 years. In that time they have been awarded two gold and one silver medal by the German Sailing Association for their achievements.

Before leaving Hamburg in May, 1964, they had planned their circumnavigation for eight years by reading all they could find on meteorology, climates, currents, winds, coasts and people. Also many sailing books of other voyagers.

They saved—George is a sales manager—and Elsa learnt Spanish and a bit of Portuguese. They had mastered English at school.

After leaving Hamburg they sailed by way of England, Spain, Portugal and Madeira to the Canary Islands and then across the Atlantic to the West Indies, Panama Canal, Galapagos, several Pacific Islands and New Zealand. From there they sailed to New Caledonia, the Torres Strait, Christmas Island, Cocos, Mauritius and Durban.

The worst part of their trip was approaching Mauritius in a bad gale, the tailend of Cyclone Angela.

"We had to continue sailing, as being hove-to would have made us drift too far off course."

"We had to sail through a three-mile wide channel at night in a 45-knot wind. The sea was shallow abruptly varying from 2,000 to 30 fathoms, which causes steep breaking seas in a gale. It was terrifying as we had been able to take a sight only at noon the previous day and thus did not know exactly where we were. A tremendous relief when we made Port Louis."

"The gale we had two days off Durban was not so bad, as we could take down our sails and ride it out for 19 hours."

The couple plan to continue their voyage in mid-January. "With Christmas we will be with my sister in Johannesburg," said Elga. "I have not seen her for 15 years." ■■

BELOW: George and Elga Koch soon after arrival in Durban in their 32ft steel centreboard sloop *Kairos*.

Kairos under sail. She was built with shallow draft for use in inland waters in Germany.

Photos: Bianca Lavies

