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Expert Sailor Brings In Boat Despite Loss Of Keel

By Norma Nelson

The keel quit its job without notice and left the 22-foot Danish sloop Echo unsteady as a wounded bird. Ransom Rideout Sr., expert sailor that he is, brought her in and this is proof of his skill and calm thinking in a rare and complicated situation.

Rideout's granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bovee, were aboard and he is proud of their good sportsmanship. Of course they had life saving gear but three miles miles would be a long swim in cold water.

The weather was fine. Southwest of Lighthouse Point they came about and during the maneuver the Echo heeled over sharply. Instead of righting herself, she continued to heel with water rushing into the cockpit. It was a struggle to drop the mainsail and put it in stops. Finally the Echo righted, rolling and unstable.

Rideout accomplished the delicate task of bringing her in by using the jib part of the way and power the remainder of the distance to Santa Cruz wharf.

Little, if any, precedent exists for handling a boat without her keel. Such an occurrence is mentioned in Alain Gerbault's book, "The Voyage of the Firecrest." Gerbault had trouble with his keel in the South Seas some 30 years ago but it is not



clear whether or not he was entirely without one.

Congratulations to Ransom Rideout Sr. for a remarkable performance in seamanship.

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An enthusiastic Capt. Paul Adam of Jester Yacht Sales has returned from Costa Mesa. At Jensen's Yacht Builders he previewed the Cal 34's and 46's, two outstanding new additions to the Jensen Cal line. The firm has expended its already modern facilities to meet accelerated demands for their line.

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News comes by air wave that the Ray Pingree Srs. are enjoying their cruise on the Sea of Cortez aboard their Courtship.

Capt. Italo and Elena Canepa and their son Vincent sailed for San Diego with their 40-foot sloop, The Islander, in company with Capt. Clint Standfield and his wife, Lovett, on their Fridolf. The Standfields plan to continue on a short run into Mexican waters.

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Bob Taunt of Sacramento and Harold Mosher have returned from another cruise aboard Mosher's 37-foot Nirvana III. Sailing is habit forming and they've acquired the habit. This summer they plan to go gunk-

holing, beginning with a month up the Sacramento river. Taunt has a 30-foot sailer berthed at Sacramento.

The two watched the start of the MBYRA annual 100 Mile race from fishermen's wharf in Monterey at 10 p.m. Saturday. Approximately 28 boats entered the race. The night was clear, skippers and crews were easy, the only thing missing was the wind.

Eleven minutes passed before the last boat crossed the starting line, a beam of light 200 yards across. Bob Kinzie says it was practically a dead calm when they started and winds were light all night.

In the morning, wind came from the south and veered to the northwest around noon. After 1 o'clock the wind picked up and then, "we really surfed."

Kinzie crewed on Jim Edwards' Haje along with Pat Camara, Jack Halterman and Jim Hooper. He said they all had spinnakers Sunday afternoon and it was delightful.

If anyone was late for work Monday morning, you might check to see if he was aboard any of the racing boats. The Haje got in a little after 11 p.m. and at midnight several boats were still out.

Results of the race are not yet calculated. Apparently the first to cross the finish line was a Saber out of Monterey and the next was Eric Petersen's 8-meter Angelita.