

On 10/16/2019 at 12:17 AM, SPORTSCAR said:

Hobot, you are an absolute bloody legend.

I last saw this beautiful little yacht in Nelson, New Zealand in about 1962. I have searched far and wide for a photo of her since then. She was about 20ft or so in length) and raced very successfully in Nelson for a number of years. She was sailed by the legendary Jorgensen Brothers who were shipwrights in Picton, Wellington, across Cook Strait from Nelson, in 1962. She was immortalised in me a love of small wooden yachts that I hold to this day. Have any other similar events happened to Saga and if she is still afloat. Any Nelsonians have any photos of her? Jorgensens?



Saga – 16ft 10in sloop

10 April 2015

Designed by M. F. S Hansen, Copenhagen, Saga was a 'Spiddsgatter' double-ended 16ft 10in sloop. LOA 16ft 10in, LWL 14ft, Beam 7ft 6in, Draft 3ft 10in. Sail area 160 sq ft, Mast height 26ft.



Saga at Clyde Quay Harbour, August 1962. Ian Longstaff on helm, Roydon Thomas forward

Saga was built by Gotfred and Finn Jorgensen (Gotfred's son). Building started in Denmark and was completed in Picton, New Zealand following the migration of the Jorgensen family to NZ in 1954. She was probably launched in Picton the late 1950s. Gotfred Jorgensen and his family ran a

boatbuilding business in Picton for many years. They shifted their business to Waikawa Bay in the 1970s. The Saga was bought by Murray and Peter Bennett from Nelson. They owned her until July 1962, when she was sold to Ian Longstaff from Paremata, Wellington. Ian Longstaff and Roydon Thomas sailed Saga from Nelson to Wellington 25-27 August 1962 through French Pass, taking 43 hours for the trip. Ian Longstaff wrote a one-page summary of the trip from his log – see extract below. It was probably one of the smallest boats to cross Cook Strait at that time. They were lucky with the weather, both coming through French Pass and going through the Jackson passage between Cape Jackson and the Jackson light. The Jackson passage can be extremely rough when the tide is against the wind.