

## Danish Yacht Launched In Nelson

A sleek, double-ended keeler slid into the water off the Aurora Sailing Club slipway this morning to climax six years of work. And watching her with a few tears glistening in his eyes, and a proud smile, was a middle-aged Danish shipbuilder.

The story began six years ago in Denmark when Mr Peter Jorgensen started to work on the yacht, originally designed by a famous Danish Navy architect, Mr M. S. J. Hansen.

Most of the timber, Danish oak, was pre-cut in Denmark, and brought out with Mr Jorgensen when he came to New Zealand and settled at Picton.

He explained that the yacht, with a length of 16ft. 10in., was the smallest of the double-ender series.

"This one we call a 15 square metre double-ender, but the other four in the series go up to 55 square metres," he said. "They are heavy," he added, "but very fast."

### ONLY ONE

It is the only one of its type in New Zealand. It also would be one of the sturdiest, and smallest ocean-going yachts in the country. The construction and finish of the hull and decking has been completed with true Danish thoroughness.

However, about 12 months ago Mr Jorgensen sold the uncompleted yacht to two brothers, Murray and Peter Bennett, of Nelson, keen members of the Aurora Sailing Club.

They lined the cabin, added a sliding cockpit cover, made the boom and mast, and added the varnish. The mast, on a tabernacle, is collapsible, and the mainsail can be raised or lowered simply by turning a handle.

Some of the yacht's features: She will berth four, has a Marconi rig, is finished with mahogany in the cabin, has a sail area of 194 square feet, half a ton of lead in the keel, and has a Danish penny, for good luck, under the mast.

She has been aptly named Saga, by the Bennett brothers. "We're very pleased with her," they said this morning. "In fact, we've been so busy getting her launched, and so excited, we haven't had a chance to eat much in the last 24 hours."

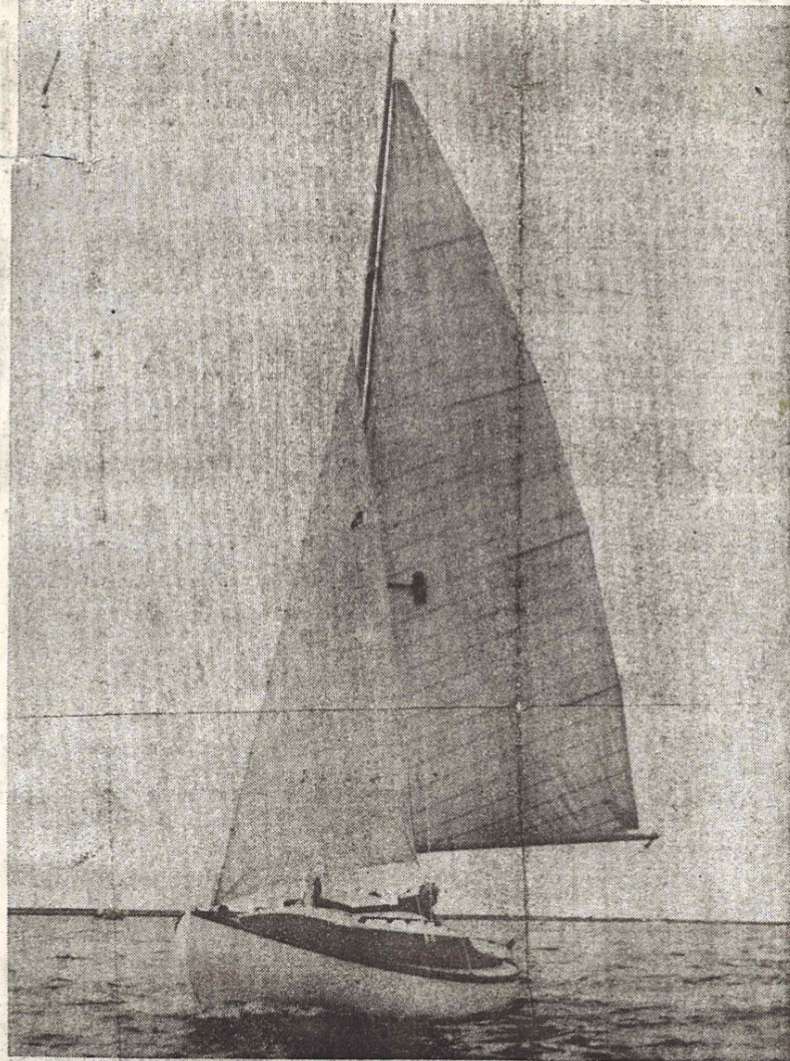
Her permanent moorings will be near the Boulder Bank, in front of the lighthouse. The brothers were a little on edge this morning—they could hardly wait for a wind to spring up so that they could really test her.

Her statistics are: Length, 16ft. 10in.; beam, 6ft. 5in.; draught, 3ft.; mast, 30ft.; weight, one ton and a quarter.

As a tribute to Mr Jorgensen the Saga will fly the pennant of the Kastrup Sailing Club, of Copenhagen, of which he was a member.

Heeling on a starboard tack, the double-ended keeler Saga, spreads its canvas to the breeze at Port Nelson this afternoon! The yacht, the only one of its kind in New Zealand, was launched this morning by its owners, Peter and Murray Bennett, both members of the Aurora Sailing Club. The Saga has four bunks, and would be one of the smallest and finest ocean-going yachts in the country.

—2213



(“Mail” Photo)

LAUNCHED SEPT. 1960.

Until about two years ago, Saga was moored next to me in Clyde Quay Marina Wellington since about 2004. She was there a long time before that. She's now sitting in a cradle at Evans Bay

Gavin Pascoe, Wellington August 2021