

John Townsend, 54, stands before 18-ton sailboat he built in De Luz, 14 miles from the ocean. Launching of the 47-foot vessel is set in summer.



Victor Ulfeldt of Canada, an architect and friend of Townsends, lends hand with finish work.

47-Foot Ocean Cutter Takes Shape In A Meadow

DE LUZ — John Townsend, an aeronautics engineer, has built an 18-ton sailboat in an oak-wooded meadow here, 14 miles and a range of mountains away from the ocean.

Townsend, 54, plans a summer launching.

He will move the 47-foot cutter out of this valley by truck.

His ship was seven years in construction. He plans a world cruise with his wife and two children.

When it leaves here, winding west on narrow roads, it will mark the end of an era in the little De Luz Valley.

REAL EXPERIENCE

"It's been an adventure just building it," said Townsend, who designed the big cutter himself and has done the construction almost single-handedly.

He recalled that a fire last year ravaged the hills west of De Luz and threatened to blacken the entire valley, coming within a quarter of a mile of his boat.

Area Riding Club To Hold Show

VISTA — The program for Vista-Palomar Riders Horse Show April 12 was announced yesterday by Pat Ramos, president of the groups.

Sixteen events are scheduled during the show at the Vista-Palomar Riders Arena on North Santa Fe Drive at Bobier Drive. English competition will begin at 8:30 a.m., and western pleasure events will be held in the afternoon.

The horse show will end with novelty events, including a Texas barrel race, pole bending competition and a keyhole race.

Meeting Planned

VISTA — Representatives from all clubs and organizations in Vista are invited to attend a meeting of the Vista Coordinating Council at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Vista Chamber of Commerce office. Chairman Frank L. Meyer said the coordinating council will discuss cooperation of various groups to achieve projects beneficial to the community.

EARN \$6,000 YR. PART TIME

"I was pretty helpless," Townsend said. "I just stood and watched it coming and thought, 'My God, all that work!'"

Townsend, who works in Culver City and commutes to De Luz, said De Luz residents have taken a personal interest in his progress on the boat, which will have eight bunks and carry three sails on a 60-foot mast.

KEEL POURED

Pouring of the vessel's 10,000-pound lead keel was a community event, he said.

"We dug a trench and put forms in the ground, then melted the lead in three old bathtubs with wood fires under them," Townsend recalled.

"That's the first time anything like that has ever happened in De Luz, and I can guarantee it," said an old-time resident.

BUILT BOAT AT 19

Townsend said he brought the \$1,000 worth of lead into the valley a few hundred pounds at a time in the back of his car.

When the keel was cool, it was dragged from the ground by two tractors and skidded across the ground to the ship.

Townsend built his first boat when he was 19 and spent two years just after World War II

sailing through Mexican, Central American and South Pacific waters in a 38-foot ketch. He said his cutter is designed for deep-water travel.

The vessel will draw 6 feet, 9 inches of water, is 12 feet, 6 inches wide and has a sharp clipper bow and a pointed canoe-like stern to cope with heavy seas.

With its 60-horsepower diesel engine the ship should be able to travel 1,800 to 2,000 miles under power without refueling, Townsend said.

WIFE ASSISTS

Mrs. Townsend, who has assisted in all the construction, boasts an all-electric galley range, refrigeration and a shower with hot water.

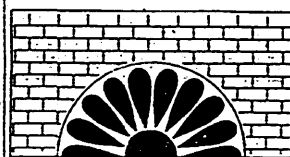
Townsend said he plans to launch his ship at Dana Point and move his family aboard immediately for shakedown cruises. Afterward, he plans trips to the Caribbean and Europe.

The Townsends' crew will include two children, Norman, 16, and Sylvia, 17. Another son, Roger, 26, lives in Long Beach.

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4.99% Low Bid On Poway Bonds

Cooley News Service

SACRAMENTO — State Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest has received a low bid of 4.9992 per cent net interest for a \$1.2 million bond issue for the Poway School District. The bid from Crocker Citizens National Bank amounted to \$479,932 in interest over the 15-year maturity period.

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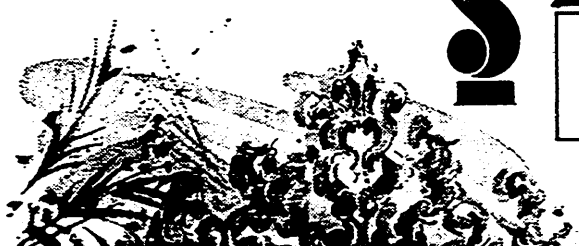
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