

Into the Cool Salt Spray!

Madison Men to Take Dream Sail to Pacific

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Two Madison men are looking forward today to that dream of trips down to the sea in a ship through the muddy Mississippi out into the cool salt spray of rough waters which would shiver the timbers of any schooner under any sailor

Not long ago R B Brown of Milwaukee decided he had had enough of the utility business

Among other jobs he resigned as president of the Madison Gas and Electric co. He decided to make a 45yearold dream come true and sail away to peace and quiet and retirement forever on his on the Orcas islands off the state of Washington

May Go This Weekend

And two Madison men have drawn the long straws and will take the 8000 mile trip with him They are E William Steinike, 35, of 2102 Keyes Ave and John Findorff, 20, of 431 Farwell Drive, Maple Bluff

They're going to have a time on this trip on the Ranger a two masted schooner rig yacht. It's a natural of course jaunting off like that but they don't have to worry about taking much stuff with them and don't even know when they'll start. But when they do - maybe this coming weekend - they'll pull away from Milwaukee, skim to Chicago, drift through the drainage canal, and catch the Illinois River to the Mississippi, from there for the Panama Canal and after a long jaunt wind up on the Pacific coast - Steinike at Radio

It won't be a first trip on salt water for Steinike who was a radio operator on freighters and passengers along the line for four years, before he went with the Gas and Electric co here. Brown heard about him and picked him out for radio operator on the trip. The Ranger will have a radio telephone so the crew can talk either to ships or to land stations. Findorff, a University of Wisconsin junior, slipped onto the trip when one man going couldn't make it. First on the waiting list, Findorff will get his first taste of salt water.

But neither one will have a soft ride, without counting the experience of meeting squalls. All will have to take a watch and perhaps a turn at the wheel, as the 80 foot boat powered by a modern motor and two new masts sails away. Because of bridges, the boat will go down the Mississippi with the masts sleeping. But once out in the open, the Ranger will depend a lot upon the winds to sail her along. So there is no definite time set for the trip. Let the weeks roll by. The waters do.

'Oh very much!' is the way Steinike expressed his liking for the trip and Findorff was right there with him. Only, he said some of his friends think he's foolish to go batting off on a trip like that. They'll come by train.

John plans to have some more clothes sent out and then head RO to see the San Francisco Bridge before returning to Madison

Special Food Clothes

The boat has deep sea sounding apparatus, an electric plant for light, pumps, winches, anchor windlasses and other uses, compressed gas for cooking. Each man will be limited to about a gallon and a half of water per day for drinking, cooking and washing. In seaman's language that might be it! But there'll be the good old canned goods, which take little space in the cupboards but fill up a lot when you're hungry - meats, fish, vegetables, potatoes, soups, fruit juices, sausages, spaghetti and powdered eggs and milk.

They'll have special clothes but they'll be the practical kind, like oilskins, overall pants and special shoes – topsiders, which have a zigzag cut in the sole like an auto tire, so a fellow can stick when he wants to. Brown told Findorff they were the best kind to get.

But the trip is best for Brown, who was succeeded by John St John as president of the utility here. He's waited a long time and now he can go and live in peace on an island far away - an island, where the trees have grown so long they have settled down where the mountains wear snow caps at a rakish angle, where the waters lap into a front yard and the dim drums of trouble in the hills are hardly heard.

Note :

John Findorff, the 20-year-old UW student, who joined Brown on his journey in 1939, went on to become president of Findorff Construction Co. in Madison in 1971 and died in 2006. (He succeeded his father in the family-owned business.)

Findorff Construction built the famous Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison in 2004; the building was designed by the late great architect Frank Lloyd Wright. (It was Wright's last design; the city sat on it for almost 50 years.)