

[ 6/11/1977 ]  
[ The Day ]

The Joseph Heap family braves the wind

# Vamoose is victor in A-1 competition

NEW LONDON — Vamoose, a Morgan 41 skippered by Don Wilson of the Barrington, R.I., Yacht Club, battled heavy seas and winds up to 40 miles an hour to take first place in Class A-1 on the first day of the Off Soundings Club's 40th annual Spring Race Series Friday.

Vamoose was one of 160 yachts which went to the starting line to brave the severe coastal storm which lashed the area all day Friday and created hazardous sailing conditions for the fleet.

A spokesman for the Off Soundings Club said Friday night, "A whole lot of boats didn't finish and there was quite a bit of damage, but everyone who started is accounted for."

He described sailing conditions as "possibly the worst in the history of the event."

Classes A-1, A-2, B-1, C-1, C-2 and C-3 sailed the long course of 24.6 miles, starting at Sarah's Ledge at the entrance of the Thames River, to Race Point Nun 2 (left to port), to Cerberus Shoal Whistle 9 (left to starboard), to the bell off the Ruins (left to port), to the finish line a mile and a half northeast of Ram Island, Gardiner's Bay.

Classes B-2, C-4 and the Cruising Class sailed a course of 16.2 miles, starting at Sarah's Ledge to Valliant Rock Bell 1-A (left to starboard) to the finish line, passing to the northward of Bell 1GI off The Ruins.

The series resumes today off Shelter Island, N.Y., where the fleet

rendezvoused Friday night after the opening day races. Overall winners in the various classes will be those with the best cumulative scores for two days of racing.

Leaders following the opening day or racing are:

Class A-1: Vamoose, W.D. Wilson; Salty, H.P. Garvin Jr; Volta, A. B. Van Liew; Spindrift, William Rich.

Class A-2: Blueflower, Samuel Hird; Kismet, J.B. Simmons Jr.; Chrisada, E.H. Porter, 2nd; Jubi, J.M. Fales Jr.

Class B-1: Black Arrow, W. L. Ames; Hispaniola, D.A. Swindells; Whither, R. Purdy and R. Moneleone; Sunshine, A.B. Dawson.

Class B-2: Bounty Hunter, Ron Levine; Dauphine, S.L. Fiske; Tiki, Joe Walden; Altair, S.B. Jennings Jr.

Class C-1: Sea Fox, P.K. D'Arcy; Crossbow, Fred Fischbein; J.L. Seagull, A.N. Brainard; Scamper, J.K. Baker.

Class C-2: Soogie Moogie, Jim Castle; Formula 1, B. Evelyn and B. Hall; Impulse, G.H. Rawding, Jr; Ajax, P.A. Connor.

Class C-3: Elusive, C.E. Poindexter; Nereid, P.N. Simmons; Damn Yankee, R.W. Jacobs Jr.; Taurus, H.A. and P.E. Bergendahl.

Class C-4: Rebel, J. Bevilacqua; Pamalu, J.S. Pequignot; Tigress, E.C. Smith; Aigle, William Lvihovec.

Cruising Class: Sapphire, P.D. Sanger; Bellwether, C.E. Gleason; Renasci, Stu Tillinghast; Bahari, R.M. Sheriff Jr.

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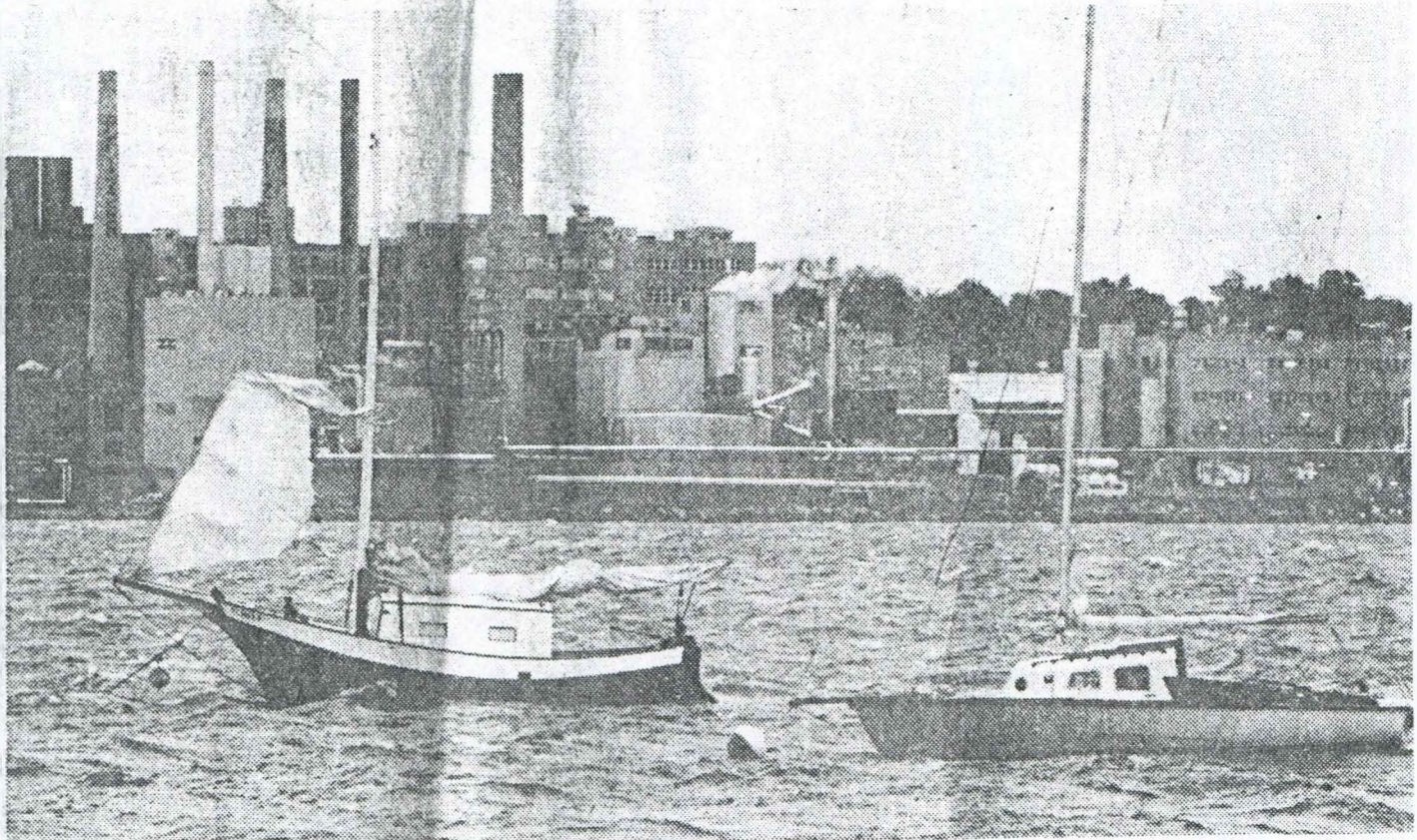
*Beached sailboat at Thames Yacht Club*

*(The Day 6/11/1977)*

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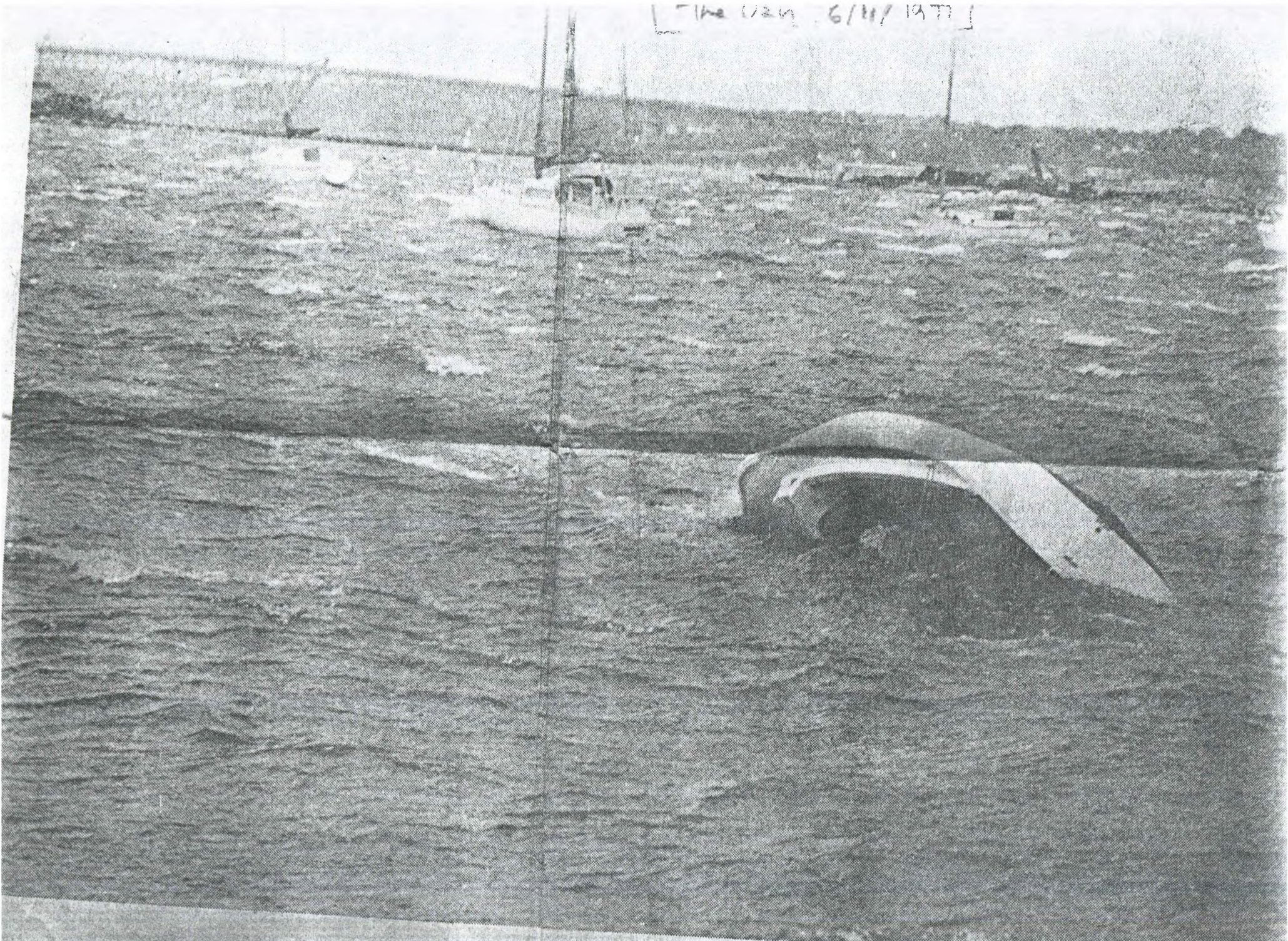
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*Flapping jib upon the windy river*

[The DSN 6/11/1977]



Wind-battered boats in the Thames River

# Gale wind mars races

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the racing boat. According to Boatswain's Mate Frank Wescovich, the New London Coast Guard's officer of the day.

The 40-footer from New London and 41-footer from Fishers Island rescued *Entropy*, owned by Joseph M. Palmieri, which had also lost its rudder, and one other unidentified boat with the same problem.

*Shadow*, a 40-foot boat owned by Charles T. Sturgess, ran aground on Hog Back rock off Burr's Yacht Haven, New London, at the race's start and had to be towed off by the Coast Guard. Wescovich said the boat's hull had a hole punched in it by the impact.

The boat was towed into Burr's for repairs.

Off Soundings is a popular local race series which

attracts racing and cruising yachts in nine classes from 23 to 50 feet. The wind Friday was steadily from the northeast, probably averaging more than 40 knots, but with the Coast Guard recording one gust of 85 to 90.

Marc Konrad of Plant Street, New London, was aboard *Rascal*, a Dolphin 24 owned by Richard T. Steinhilber, whose tiller snapped off about 15 minutes after

the start. Konrad estimated that perhaps another 60 or 70 boats did not finish the race because of comparable problems. He said a clamp was affixed to the rudder to make a short, temporary tiller and it was sufficient to get them safely to Thames Yacht Club in New London.

Konrad took the ferry to Orient Point to be on hand for the parties and he was lucky, because the noon ferry was the only one to run all day. All other trips were cancelled because of the high winds.

Tom Regan of 52 Mott St., New London, was a crewman aboard *Spirit*, a Morgan 36 owned by Norman B. Peck Jr. of Niantic. "Personally, I enjoyed every minute of it," Regan said. "We had a fantastic race. I'm not sure of the time, but we didn't have any problems at all. It was most enjoyable."

## Running joke

"We were rather comfortable," Peck agreed later in a telephone conversation. "I was surprised. We knew it was blowing more than 38," he said, a running joke among the crew. His boat does not have a wind speed gauge, because "we'd rather not know."

He said the wind was continuing to blow strongly Friday night — "It looks like the beginning of a hurricane," he said.

The obvious comparison was with the fall Off Soundings races two years ago in which several boats were severely damaged in high winds. But this event was more comfortable, because the boats sailed before the wind. Two years ago, they had to beat into the wind, which can be a very wet and grueling experience.

Small boat racing was also affected by Friday's storm. The 40 competitors in the 5-0-5 East Coast Championship at the Niantic Bay Yacht Club did not even rig their boats because of the high winds. Several boats were blown off their trailers and at least two masts were broken.



Braving the elements in a raft