

# ‘Wraith of Odin’ 1951 to 1997

## The 1952 Hobart Race



## The Mercury (Hobart, Tasmania)

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### "FLOATING HOMES" CAME TO HOBART IN YACHT FLEET

Two floating homes complete with women and children took part in the Sydney-Hobart ocean yacht race which finished yesterday. They are the 57ft. ketch Wraith of Odin and the 64ft. cutter Nirvana, both of Sydney.

The showboat of the racing fleet; Wraith of Odin, was sailed by her owner (Mr. B. R. O'Brien), who brought with him his wife and children Corinne (4), and Roderick (3). Mr. O'Brien, a lecturer at Sydney University, could not very well leave his family behind, for without Wraith of Odin they would have no home.

Wraith of Odin was built for Mr. O'Brien two years ago, and he and his family live aboard her in Sydney Harbour.

The children are good sailors, and have always lived afloat. Mr. O'Brien had another yacht before Wraith of Odin was built. The family lacks no comfort aboard. Wraith of Odin's fittings in her separated cabins, main lounge, and elsewhere below decks are of cedar and rosewood. Mr. O'Brien has his own study aboard.

The galley is fitted with stainless steel sink, gas stove, and refrigerator, and throughout the yacht is roomy and comfortable, with carpeted floors in most cabins.

Nirvana was built by her owner (Mr. S. G. Heaton) in his backyard to his own design. She was completed in seven years. Mr. Heaton brought with him on the voyage to Hobart his wife and sister-in-law, his two children, Robert (10), and Patricia (6), and their nurse. The Heaton family have lived aboard Nirvana for long periods. Nirvana has spacious accommodation. Her main cabin is almost as large as a similar type of room in an average home.

The children in both yachts give little cause for anxiety. All are experienced sailors for their years, and their parents do not worry greatly about their safety at sea. In heavy weather they are usually kept below, but in most conditions are allowed free use of the decks. Nirvana will leave for Sydney tomorrow, but Wraith of Odin will stay in Hobart for about a week, after which she will cruise back to Sydney.