

HORI, Kenich

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## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Museum



### A Pacific Crossing

As the skipper of the Tinkerbelle sailed into historic Falmouth harbor last week (page 37), his voyage was watched halfway around the world by the veteran of an even longer solo crossing of the Pacific. He is Kenichi Horie, who three years ago sailed his 19-foot sloop, Mermaid, from Japan's Osaka Bay 93 days to San Francisco to learn about democracy, the frontier spirit—and yachting.

Horie, then 23 years old and an auto-parts salesman, had slipped secretly out of Osaka Bay on a May night in 1962 to bypass the authorities who had refused him a passport for his "foolish voyage." Within a week after putting out he had weathered two storms, but on the eleventh day towering seas stove in the Mermaid's tiny one-bunk cabin carrying away quantities of stores, clothing and supplies. At voyage end, however, he was 3 pounds heavier (for a total

of 115 pounds) and handed out a round of sake to the startled Coast Guardsmen who had long given him up for lost. "Obviously, one hell of a navigator," mused one officer.

The Mermaid now rests in the San Francisco Maritime Museum and Horie, who at 26 is half owner of a marine business a few blocks from Tokyo's Imperial Hotel, hopes to open a boatyard. Bachelor Horie ("I am hunting") also teaches yachting, enjoys it because "our business is an uneasy one but I prefer something challenging." He returned to the U.S. last year on the money from a best-selling book and a movie about his experiences on the seas and visited 30 states. Still a minor celebrity at home, Horie has no plans for another dangerous crossing but says, "A man's heart changes and so might I." He felt he changed on his first solo trip. "I will never be shocked by anything," he reminisced. "I know I am now stronger in heart."

Newsweek, August 30, 1965

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