

Bay Area Men Lost

Five Die as Freighter Sinks Yacht

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miles offshore at 4 a. m. yesterday. It was raining, the wind was blowing strongly, and

waves were running 10 to 12 feet high. The Parramatta radioed the first word of the crash and

Coast Guard rescue boats set out immediately from Point Arguello and Santa Barbara.

Chief Warrant Officer W. S. Yeargain, commanding the first Coast Guard vessel to reach the crash scene, said the debris from the Suomi was "scattered like meal on the water," and added:

"I have no hope that any of them survived. It was windy, cold, rainy and rough, even for an old sailor."

Yeargain's crew picked up an uninflated life raft, half of a skiff that had been carried by the yacht and other remains of the craft.

BODY FOUND

They also recovered Cooper's body. It was identified by a friend, J. H. Augustine of San Francisco. He made the identification at a mortuary in Lompoc (Santa Barbara county).

According to business associates here, Meiggs had bought the trim yawl two weeks ago from a Los Angeles dentist, and was taking her to San Francisco for refitting. He planned to enter her in the Honolulu race in July.

Meiggs flew to Los Angeles with his Bay Area friends Sunday and sailed out of Newport harbor Monday. They put in at Santa Barbara with a blown engine gasket Tuesday at 11 p. m. They sailed from Santa Barbara about 8 p. m. Wednesday.

The Suomi was built here in 1946 and was designed by Myron Spaulding, a local marine architect. She won top honors in her class in the 1947 Honolulu race.

Meiggs, a grandson of San Francisco's fabulous Henry Meiggs, who built Meiggs wharf and became a railroad magnate in Peru, has been in

the mortgage business here for 20 years. He was a member of the St. Francis and Corinthian Yacht Clubs and the Menlo Circus Club.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; an adopted son, Christopher, and three other sons, Henry Jr., 12; Keith, 8, and Mark, 6.

MARINE ARCHITECT

Cooper, a former marine architect with Pacific Far East Lines, was a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

He had recently been supervising construction of a new racing yacht for Meiggs at the Myron Spaulding Yard in Sausalito. He was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

He is survived by his wife, Constance; a daughter, Jan, 7, and a son, Alan, 4.

Wilson, the New Zealander, came to San Francisco in 1953 as skipper of a 54-foot cutter, the Leda. He and a crew of four had sailed her through the South Seas and across the Pacific.

The Parramatta stayed at the scene of the wreck until the Coast Guard arrived and then headed under her own steam for Los Angeles.

In Los Angeles harbor, neither Captain A. C. Ericson nor any member of his crew would comment on the accident.

The Coast Guard launched an immediate investigation of the collision.



SANDY WILSON
New Zealand boat builder



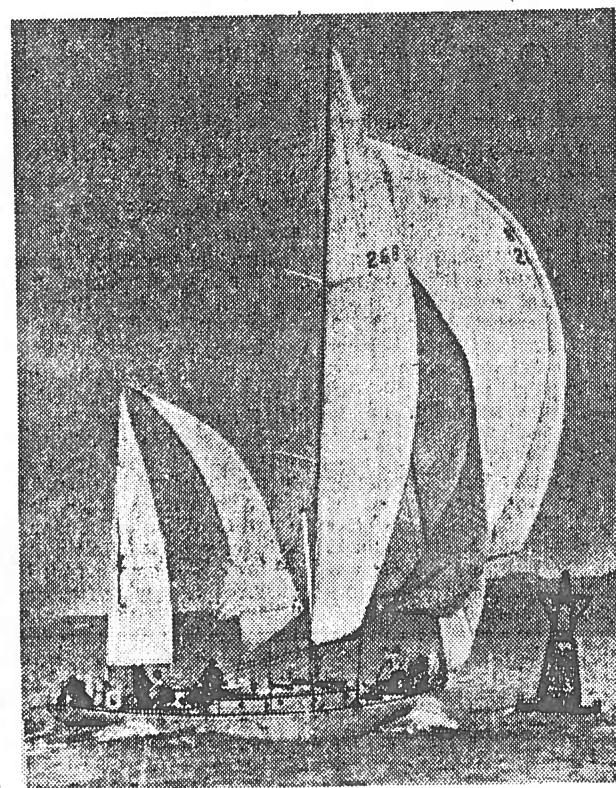
HENRY MEIGGS
Suomi's owner-captain



RALPH COOPER
His body was found



COL. WILLIAM S. CONROW
Retired Army officer



The victim: yawl Suomi, under way in the bay