

KEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY - ANDREAS

# Racing Yachts First Love Of Port Credit Builder

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By GRAHAM LIGHTFOOT

PORT CREDIT — Richard Andreas of Port Credit, one of the last real craftsmen, is still building boats in the traditional manner of old-time boat builders.

Mr. Andreas was born in Stettin, Germany, now Poland, in 1900. He built his first sailboat when he was 19 and continued to build racing yachts — a total of 23 — until World War II.

The Baltic port of Stettin on the Oder River was an ideal place to race. Mr. Andreas won countless trophies and plaques. His yachts, from the smallest to his largest, a 38-footer, were renowned for their speed and grace.

During World War II he lost both the trophies and his remaining yachts. But his skill and pride in workmanship remain now he is in Canada.

Richard and his wife left Stettin in 1945 and lived in West Germany until coming to Long Branch in 1955. They lived there three years and Mr. Andreas found work at the Port Credit Yacht Club as a repairman on the cruisers and yachts. His skill soon won the respect and admiration of boatmen and he has been with the club since.

He has built four boats in Port Credit and now is working on two twin 25-foot motor-sailing cruisers for a club member. The hull of one is fully planked and the



second is being planked now. The work involved shaping the ribs by hand and fitting each mahogany plank is painstaking.

The ribs are steamed and bent in a hand clamp and each one is individual. The planking along the keel is the most difficult and each piece must be carefully fit-

ted to ensure a watertight fit.

The boats are of English design after the Bristol Channel pilot cutters, which are built to withstand the heaviest of seas. All planking is mahogany or teak. With a 3,700-pound iron keel, they weigh just over six tons.