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Peter.

Gale dislodged historic boat

A HISTORIC boat took a legendary tumble over the weekend.

The gaff-rigged double-ended cutter Karin III, under restoration at Half Moon Bay Marina, was blown off its hard stand in a gale.

The 98-year-old boat, once owned by tea tycoon Thomas Lipton and now being restored by project manager Karl Hutchinson, was due to be launched this week when the disaster struck.

"It has set us back quite a bit," said Mr Hutchinson.

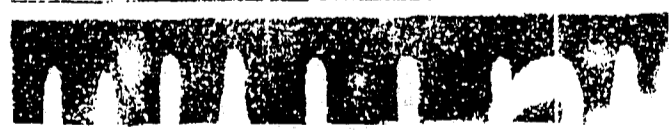
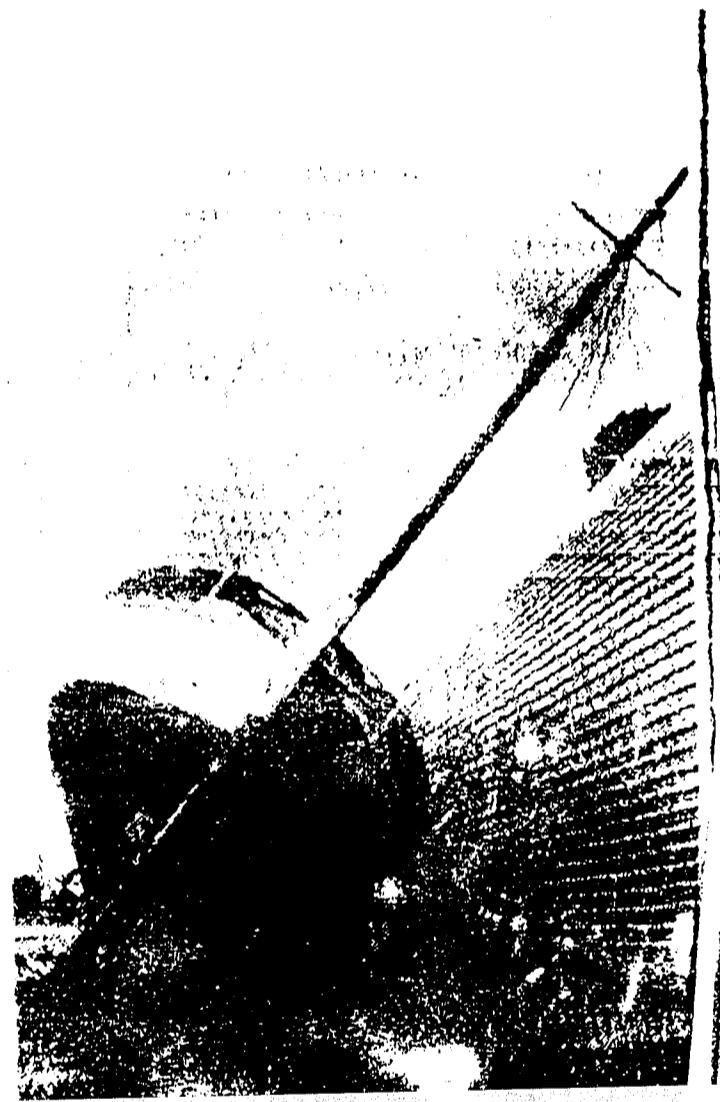
"We had hoped it would be ready to be launched this weekend, but now who knows? It could be months or it could be a year," he said.

Mr Hutchinson said the solid construction of the boat luckily meant the fall caused little damage.

The Karin III has been under restoration at the marina for a year.

It was due to be launched late in February, but Mr Hutchinson says more rotten wood was found at the beginning of this year and the restoration had to be extended.

Once the Karin III is back on the water, Mr Hutchinson plans to use it as a charter vessel.



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