



# Wings Restored, Donated To Museum As Living Example Of S.D. Boat Design

By Jean Quist —

A growing group of San Diegans are working together to preserve a sense of San Diego's maritime heritage, and when the Pacific Class (PC) sloop *Wings* slides off her cradle into the waters of America's Cup Harbor, a key part of that history comes to life again.

The Maritime Museum of San Diego announced that the restored PC wooden racing yacht *Wings*, known officially as PC#8 and originally built at the family-owned Kettenburg Boatworks on Shelter Island in 1931, will be re-launched at 10 a.m. on April 6. The ceremony

takes place at the Koehler Kraft Boatyard, with public viewing available from the northeast end of Shelter Island Drive.

"We believe that *Wings* is the oldest of the Pacific Class racing boats still around," said Maritime Museum Executive Director Ray Ashley. "She will spend the spring and summer visiting area yacht clubs, participating in regattas, then go on permanent exhibit at the Maritime Museum in the fall," he added. *Wings* is one of several PC class racing yachts restored by C.F. Koehler at his boatyard.

The PC was the first successful wooden racing yacht built for Southern California waters. De-

veloped by the Kettenburg Boatworks in the 1920s, PCs were produced until the early 1950s. PC#8 was built in 1931 for Ed Depew, a San Diego builder, who soon sold her to jeweler George Carter Jessop.

After many years of sailing and racing, *Wings* came to be owned by Paul Hartley, former city councilman and acting mayor of San Diego. The Hartley family donated *Wings* to the Maritime Museum in 2001.

The restoration was made possible by a number of private donations, including a substantial gift from the Ellen Browning Scripps Foundation. Spearheading the effort has been Rish Pavelec, a PC enthusiast and owner who has restored several boats.

Koehler Kraft has been promoting interest in boat care and maintenance through monthly seminars that detail the "care and feeding" of wooden and fiberglass boats.

Now the yard is reaming with the Ancient Mariner's Sailing Society to promote enthusiasm for classic and wooden sailing yachts by hosting monthly boat rallies.

Those interested can meet at Koehler Kraft for the first sail along San Diego Bay April 12. The skippers' meeting is at 10 a.m.; boats sail at noon. Crew positions are available for all levels of sailors on boats belonging to AMSS members.

Call Koehler Kraft at (619) 222-9051 for additional information.