

Home Are The Sailors

*And We Have
Visitors, Too!*

Two boats arrived in the Bremer River yesterday from different directions. They were the 22ft. cutter Katrine, with two Ipswich men on board, Jack Pankoff and his son Stuart; and the 30ft. auxiliary cruiser, Rambler, with retired captain Johnnie Baker, and his sister, Mrs. Barwych, on board.

The Pankoffs had just completed a 900 mile trip from Cairns, and were met by the Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. J. T. Finimore).

Mr. Baker and his sister come from Melbourne. They bought the cruiser in the Northern Rivers District, and intend to repeat the Pankoff's journey, but in reverse.

Yesterday, as he helped to tie his boat up, Stuart Pankoff said the trip had taken a month and a day. It had been his long cherished wish to sail on the ocean. His father had been to sea for 15 years in sailing ships, and a bit of it must have rubbed off on to his son. Stuart said the trip could be put down as being very uneventful, except for the experience he had gained.

perience he had gained.

Both men had been working in Cairns when Stuart saw the vessel lying in a creek. He had his eye on it for a long time before he eventually bought it. It took them six weeks to refit her before they started out.

Several times they struck hard going, and on one occasion, just outside Mackay, they turned back into the harbour. Just outside Moreton Bay they ran into a storm. They did very little sailing at night. Stuart explained that this was because they did not know the coast very well.

Asked what was the most difficult part of the trip, both said coming up the Brisbane and Bremer Rivers. On the Brisbane River they struck the Victoria Bridge with the mast, and on the Bremer they had to be careful of low hanging electric wires.

Stuart now intends to clean the boat and really fit it out. However, he did not think he would be the first Ipswich entrant in the Brisbane to Gladstone boat race. The costs, he said, were too high.

John Baker, an ex R.A.F officer, and later in the war with the small ships division in Australia, is one of the few men alive in the world who has had his neck broken twice. This was mentioned by his sister as she sat in the stern of their well-fitted-out cruiser.

Mr. Baker and his sister, intend to stay in Ipswich for a few days before going back to Southport to spend Christmas on the

to spend Christmas on the
South Coast. They do not
intend to leave for Cairns
until February.