

# Shakedown for the Tartan

Photostory by DWIGHT BOYER

**M**ANY of his friends will remember Charlie Britton as the fellow who, after serving a three-year hitch as an officer on the destroyer U.S.S. Laws, mostly in the Pacific, took his discharge in San Diego and hurried back to Yokosuka, Japan, to build a 43-foot yawl, the Tenba.

On the Tenba, with shipmates Dixon Long and Nick Stanford, he spent a year of leisurely sailing around the world, dropping anchor in the course of 22,000 miles of travel in such exotic places as Manila, Zamboanga, Balikpapan, Bali, Christmas Island, Mauritius, Ascension Island, Cape Town and Barbados.

In a series of mimeographed dispatches called "Where's Charlie?," mostly excerpts from Britton's newsy communiques, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brigham Britton, kept friends and family apprised of the trio's progress and adventures, of which there were plenty, including a near brush with pirates off Borneo.

Pirates and the romantic ports of the seven seas behind him, Britton, now 28, is back at home at 11801 Lake Shore Boulevard, Bratenahl, which brings us to another phase in the life of the adven-



turous young Trinity College graduate—Charlie Britton the boat builder.

The result is the Tartan, shown in action on the cover. This child prodigy, which already has proven herself, has inherited many of the characteristics of the parent Tenba. This is the story of how she came into being.

Britton, who has sailed since he was 8, has known for years that he wanted to make a career out of building boats and the construction of the Tenba was more or less part of a crucial test of many ideas.

**N**OT LONG after returning home and with his head full of ideas, he went to see his old friend, Ray McLeod of Grand River, O. McLeod's organization, Douglass & McLeod, boat builders and creators of the famous Thistle and Highlander sailing craft, pioneered in the building of fiber glass hulls. And, like Britton, the staff had some ideas of their own for a larger boat. Britton, instead of setting up shop himself, joined the firm and is now vice-president of the plastics division.

"We wanted to end up with a design for an auxiliary centerboard sloop or yawl that would appeal to family sail-



Shakedown cruise over, Britton, Stephens and Ray McLeod discuss possible minor adjustments to the standing rigging.