

Boat Capsizes, Boys Make Shore

A violent, gusty wind capsized a 14-foot sailboat in Escambia Bay Saturday afternoon and its two youthful occupants said they were forced to swim about a mile to shore.

The two, each wearing a life jacket, were identified as Ford Carr, 15, of 1451 E. Johnson Ave. and Joe Dorion, 14, of Route 4, Box 280A.

Dorion said a strong wind erupted suddenly about 1:30 p.m. and tipped the boat over. Both managed to get hold of a life preserver, he said, and each stayed close to the boat for "about two or three minutes" before deciding to swim ashore.

It took approximately a little more than an hour to swim to shore, Dorion said. About midway it began raining and the winds got stronger and hampered their progress he added.

Carr, owner of the boat, told the Pensacola Journal Saturday night they swam near the home of Fred Simmons on Scenic Highway. Simmons, Carr said, took them to his home and gave them dry clothes.

A neighbor of Simmons, Carr said, went into the bay and towed the sailboat to shore after the rain stopped.

The sheriff's office got a report on the capsized boat, the Escambia Search and Rescue Squad was put into action. By the time authorities reached Smith's Fish Camp on Scenic Highway, however, they learned that the boys had already swam to shore.