Feeling fit as a fiddle, Dr. Walter E. Lipscomb, Houston dentist, and William W. Raycroft, sophomore in pre-dental studies at the University of Houston, were back at their homes Wednesday after a 12,000-mile sailboat journey in both Atlantic and Pacific waters.

Sailing in a $50,000, 45-foot sailboat owned by Doctor Lipscomb, the two men visited "a thousand and one nooks and corners" of the West Indies, went through the Panama Canal, sailed down the west coast of South America, and spent six weeks on the fabled Galapagos Islands.

At times in St. Petersburg, Fla., Havana, and in the Panama Canal Zone, Doctor Lipscomb was joined by his wife and his 15-year-old daughter, Mary; Miss Doris Kocher and "A. and Mrs. Frank Joch of Houston.

Counting expenses in Houston Wednesday, Doctor Lipscomb said the trip, which was begun from Houston in February, cost approximately $10,000, not including the $56,000 sailboat.

"Undoubtedly two men could take such a trip for a total cost of about $3,000," Dr. Lipscomb said, but we were out to have a good time, did a lot of entertaining, and didn't think too much about expenses."

He said he believed the trip was "once-in-a-lifetime affair," and was the realization of a boyhood dream to see the world in a sailboat.

The journey ended Tuesday when the men arrived in the sailboat, the Ragamuffin, at Seabrook. It was a lark from start to finish.

When Doctor Lipscomb and Mr. Raycroft left Houston they went straight to Miami, Fla., where they took part in sailboat races and otherwise spent several weeks playing around. Then they went to the West Indies and one of the places they visited was San Salvador, believe to be the first land in the Western Hemisphere on which Columbus set foot.

Natives Were Courteous.

The population on this island, almost 100 per cent colored, Doctor Lipscomb said, was very courteous, as were natives of all the countries the two visited.

They sailed the Ragamuffin through the Panama Canal both west to the Pacific and then back east to the Atlantic.

They were charmed with the Galapagos Islands, which they said abounded with all kinds of wild goats, cattle, enormous turtles and a "thousand and one" species of fish. The cattle and goats were put ashore possibly 500 years ago by seafaring men who wanted them to provide a source of fresh meat. The islands also are alive with doves and are free of mosquitoes. The men also saw lots of whales.

Because of a current from the Antarctic the islands were very cold, Doctor Lipscomb said.

The men had no mishaps. Their worst hardships was that they did not have enough hands on board. Doctor Lipscomb said at least three more should make such a trip.