

**Omena Traverse
Yacht Club
1948-1998**

***OMENA TRAVERSE
YACHT CLUB
1948-1998***



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History Committee
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Omena, Michigan



two small corner rooms. Steps went from the entrance hall to a balcony which extended across the western end of the building and could open to the second floor porch. This was used as a billiards room. The rest of the first floor consisted of an open two-story dance floor or auditorium with a stage and dressing rooms at the east end. It would be perfect as a clubhouse!

On July 6, 1948, at the first meeting in the new clubhouse, the name of the club was voted to be the Omena Yacht Club. Two days later it was changed to Omena Traverse Yacht Club, to help indicate our location, and was incorporated under this name on August 9, 1948 by Articles of Incorporation filed with the Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission.

On June 22, 1948, the Pavilion was secured with a two year lease at \$1.00 per year. The lease carried an option to purchase the property for \$2,000 during the duration of the lease and funds were raised during the 1949 season for the purchase. Fourteen members contributed \$100 each, six members each contributed \$50, four \$25 each, three \$10 each, one \$15 and one \$5. Since the total was \$100 short, Mr. Carmichael reduced the price by that amount and the deed to the clubhouse was signed, sealed and delivered.

Mr. Carmichael then gave a lease for five years on the two lots adjoining the clubhouse at a yearly rent of \$1.00. Part of this property was used as a parking lot and the remainder later became a tennis court.

At the start of the 1952 summer season the Club had title to Lots 2 and 4 which provided 92 feet of water frontage and about 160 feet depth. Later in the year, Mr. and Mrs. Carmichael presented us with the generous gift of Lots 5, 6, 7 and 8, and another gift of Lots 1 and 3. After the Carmichaels obtained a consent agreement with Mr. John Bauer as to the division of Ottawa Street, which was adjacent to the north side of the Club, the OTYC owned 240 feet of frontage on Omena Bay and 320 feet back to the Omena Point Road.

A clean-out and clean-up of the clubhouse began. All hands pitched in and helped, including the younger set of junior members.

HOW WE GREW

Many talented and resourceful members gave freely of their time and expertise as officers, committee chairmen, potluck hostesses, carpenters, sailing and tennis instructors, youth activity chaperones and whatever else was needed. Now after 50 years of OTYC existence the members are still volunteering.

The members most involved with improvements and maintenance from the beginning were Mary Foltz with her tireless enthusiasm, who inspired many others to perform both inside and outside tasks; Frank Kalchik, who contributed many hours and use of his heavy equipment; George Smith who had the grounds surveyed and had concrete markers placed at each corner. Ernie Clark spent considerable time on the House and Grounds Committee and with the assistance of Norm Johanning, prepared abstracts of Club land based on research of Leland Courthouse records. Some of the other members who loyally did what was necessary or desirable for clubhouse and grounds were Fred Gorham, Harold Grossman, Bill Misangyi, Vernon Keye, Bob Morse, John Ray, Bob Harper, Bill Sandt, Ole Kiersey, Harold Root, Humphrey Jackson, Ray Flett, Al Cherne, Bill Graf, Stu Mulligan and their committees.

All the members who have contributed blood, sweat, tears and money to the remodeling, repair, enhancement and maintenance of the Clubhouse and its grounds deserve to be proud of the results.

Improvements to the Club and property began immediately and still continue each year.

1947-50: Construction of a new dock; flagpole donated by Paul Hill; building cleaned; furniture acquired and painted; snack bar decorated; ceiling lights in entry installed.

1950-52: Restrooms installed; building painted; OTYC map of Omena by George Smith with border of wild flowers drawn by Humphrey Jackson; ships' lanterns donated by Mr. Carmichael installed; Penguomena Fleet organized.

1952-54: Acquisition of parking lot property; road encircling clubhouse relocated; lawn seeded; roof resingled; dock improved; Club plaque

ashtrays designed by Harriet Underwood; set of code flags purchased.

1954-57: Purchase of folding chairs and tables; kitchen equipment installed; trophy case built and installed; windows installed replacing several large wooden shutters from the original Pavilion structure; power line relocated; dock cribbed and capped with concrete.

1957-59: Parking lot enlarged; road widened and graded; dock slips installed; Improvement Fund established; release of deed restrictions on Club; options on lots adjoining present property secured; Sunday racing hospitality initiated.

1959-60: Youth Activity Program initiated; tennis court area cleared, graded, seeded and provided with water, backstops and access steps.

1960-62: New class sailboat, the Flying Dutchman, Jr. (FJ) introduced; first Fourth of July fireworks display, donated by Mary Louise Gleason and Bob Morse; completion of tennis court, paved and fenced; clubhouse painted; porch floor repaired; and floor of clubhouse painted.

1962-64: Electric hand dryers in restrooms installed; Omena Lake given to Club by Jessie Carmichael.

1975-78: Dolly purchased to assist in launching Sunfish; juke box donated by Gardeners; ping pong table donated by Gorhams; clubhouse exterior painted; dock rebuilt.

1979: Second floor balcony carpeted; new yellow Captain's chairs added; stage frame and surrounding walls painted.

1980: Roof vents installed to help keep the building cooler; launching ramp installed by our members to make it more convenient to handle small boats.

1982-84: Dock slips dredged; light fixture installed at top of stairway; supports for balcony replaced and railing reinforced; new refrigerator and new 90-cup coffee maker purchased; screens installed over vents to discourage small animals.

1985-88: Kitchen remodeled and mouse-proofed; a pass through window to main room, new cabinets, stainless steel double sink and warming lights installed.

1989: Clubhouse painted; wheelchair ramp built at rear of Club; new planters for porch tables purchased and painted.

1992-93: Tennis court resurfaced; upstairs porch completely rebuilt.

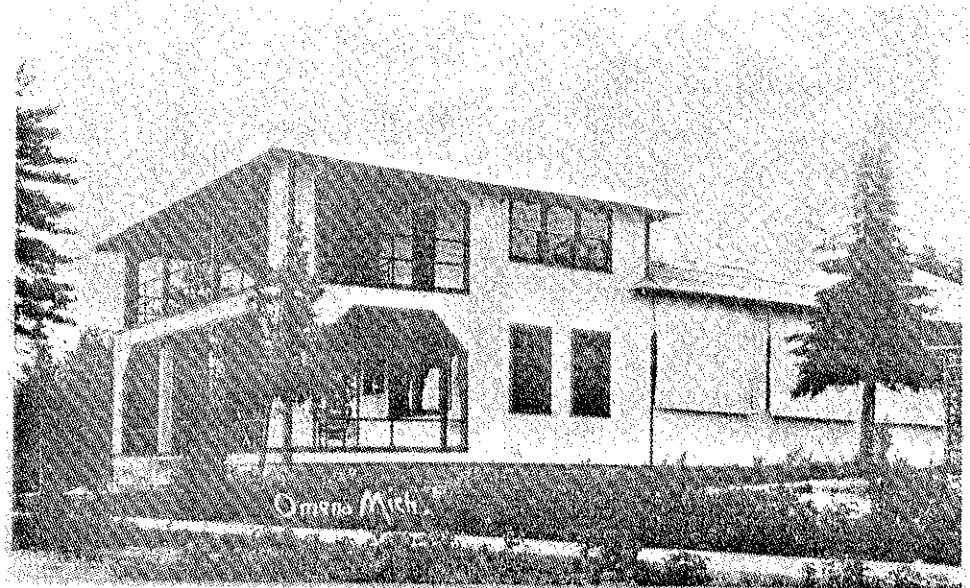
1994-97: Ceiling fans installed; shades hung at every window so the room could be darkened for the showing of slides, movies, etc.; engineering

committee established to make a professional survey of the building and determine immediate needs and long term goals.

Through the years many other improvements were made. The clubhouse painting and roof repair, repairs to the dock and upkeep of the grounds have always been a concern.

This has been an organization where volunteerism has thrived. Numerous people donated furniture from their cottages for the lounge and porches—everything from golden oak furniture to mission chairs and park benches. A marvelous example of sharing was Earl and Blanche Moore's celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary. Instead of a party, they gave the Club two sturdy picnic tables to be used by Club members in honor of their friendships with OTYC members. People have given of themselves and their talents and in return have cherished summer friendships across age and generation lines. These friendships have lasted through the years.

Our membership has grown from 38 members in 1948 to 219 members in 1997.



COMMODORES AND DIRECTORS BY THE DECADES

DECADE	COMMODORES	DIRECTORS*	
1947-57	GUS ROGERS	Joe Alcorn	Bob Dressel
	DAVID DEVORE	Stewart Ayars	James C. Finn Jr.
	PAUL HILL	Jane Basler	Marilyn Flett
	GEORGE SMITH	Hector Carmichael	Mary Foltz
		Jessie Carmichael	Paul Hill
1957-67	HUMPHREY JACKSON	Joe Alcorn	Mary Foltz
	JOE ALCORN	Mary Louise Basler	Bea Gardner
	ROBERT MORSE	Dan Bradley	Mary L. Gleason
	ANDREW RENZ	Jessie Carmichael	Bill Graf
	J. CRAMPTON FINN	Mary Jane Feely	Fred Groll
	DAN BRADLEY	Crammy Finn Sr.	Mary Huff
		Audrey Fisher	Norm Johanning
1967-77	HAROLD ROOT	Dan Bradley	William Graf
	PRESTON SMITH	Joe Buell	Syd Griffiths
	AL CHERNE	Al Cherne	Fred Groll
	DAN SCHLEEF	Ernest Clark	Harold Grossman
	AUSTIN JONES	Drew Ehrhardt	Ken Hagemann
	VERNON KEYE	Bill Fleming	Jonnie Hodgson
		Fred Gorham	Austin Jones
1977-87	KATHRYN BOSCO	Waldo Abbot	Harold Grossman
	SUZANNE MULLIGAN	Bob Bailey	Barb Harris
	JOHN HARRIS	Kathy Bosco	John Harris
	FRED SCHWARZE	Bill Fleming	Austin Jones
	WILLIAM RENZ	Fred Gorham	Margaret Lyon
	ROBERT BAILEY	James Gregory	Bill Misangyi
1987-97	WILLIAM RENZ	Waldo Abbot	Betsy Ehrhardt
	ROBERT GELAKOSKI	Robert Bailey	Marilyn Flett
	WILLIAM SANDT	Mike Biskupski	Bob Gelakoski
	MELISSA CHENAULT	Kathy Bosco	Jay Grosmark
	VIN MOORE	Melissa Chenault	Barb Harris
	JAY GROSMARK	Sam Cone	Joan Kiersey
	CAROLYN MARBACH	Gil Deibel	Margaret Lyon

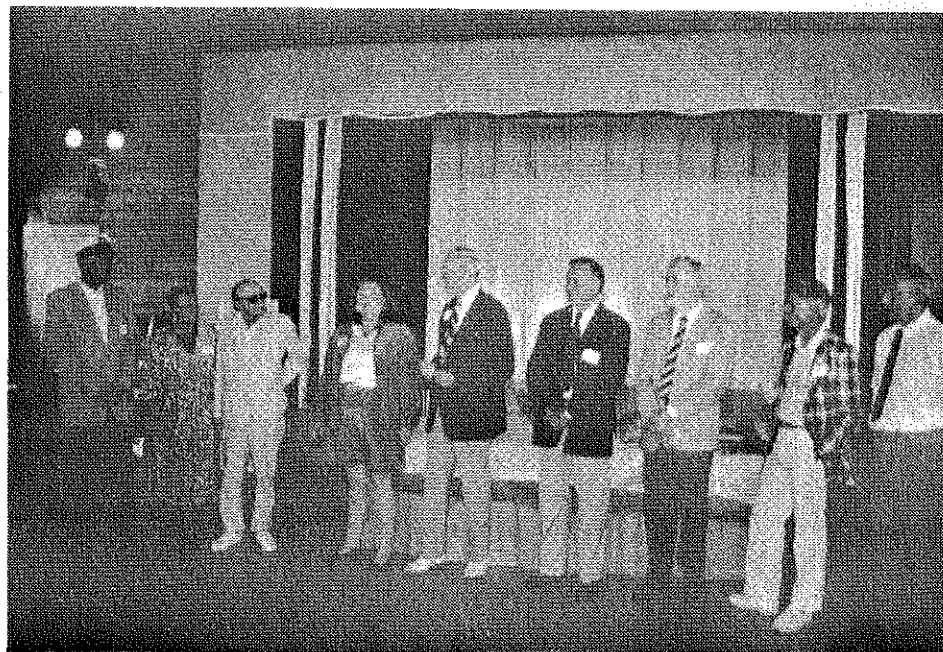
COMMODORES AND DIRECTORS BY THE DECADES

		DIRECTORS*
1947-57	Humphrey Jackson	Andrew Renz
	Frank Kalchik	Marjorie Renz
	Mary Moore	Gus Rogers
	Sid Morse	George Smith
	Gwen Pike	Hazel Taylor
		Billy Renz, Jr. Comm.
1957-67	Robert Lyon	Andy Renz
	Leona Milroy	Marjorie Renz
	Bob Morse	Harold Root
	Bob Newland	Joan Roth
	Don Patterson	John Roth
	Mary Helen Ray	James Smiley
	Bob Reed	Emily Smith
		George Smith
		Helen Smith
		Preston Smith
		Ellie Stephenson
		Hazel Taylor
		Horace Wheeler
		Mary Woolford
1967-77	Vernon Keye	John Ray
	Trudy Lewis	Mary Helen Ray
	Jed Mooney	Harold Root
	Bob Morse	Joan Roth
	Bob Newland	Jane Saxton
	Jane Newland	Dan Schleef
	Martin Oetting	James Smiley
		Holly Smith
		Preston Smith
		Rink Smith
		Ellie Stephenson
		Hazel Taylor
		Horace Wheeler
		Susan Yetter
1977-87	Jed Mooney	Joan Roth
	Suzie Mulligan	Bill Sandt
	Caroline Oberndorf	Fred Schwarze
	Martin Oetting	Mary Smith
	Mary Helen Ray	Vicki Sova
	Bill Renz	Lynn Spitz-Nagel
		D.J. St. John
		Bob Weiss
		Mary Woolford
		Susan Yetter
1987-97	Carolyn Marbach	Bill Sandt
	Robert Martineau	Jane Saxton
	Vin Moore	Lynn Spitz-Nagel
	Ed Oberndorf	Ellie Stephenson
	Mary Helen Ray	John Storey
	Bill Renz	Dennis Turner

*Directors listed alphabetically by decade.



Suzie Mulligan, Kathy Bosco, Bill Sandt, Melissa Chenault,
Bob Gelakoski, Bill Renz



Al Cherne, Kathy Bosco, Joe Alcorn, Melissa Chenault, Vin Moore,
Bob Gelakoski, Austin Jones, Bill Sandt, John Harris

THE OMENA-TRAVERSE BREEZE

The success of every organization hinges on its good communication system! Thus on October 21, 1947, the Leelanau Yacht Club News (LYCN) was first printed. It consisted of a series of letters written from college dorms, as all the members were college students. It was a mimeographed sheet costing 25¢ for five issues.

In 1948 the name was changed to "The Omena-Traverse Yacht Club Breeze" and it became the official organ of the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club, to be published twice yearly. Volume 1, Number 1 was published February, 1949.

K. Gus Smarey of Suttons Bay was the first to publish the Breeze. When Gus Rogers brought him the first copy, Gus Smarey was the one to suggest the name "Breeze." Later and for many years it was printed by the Taylor Printing Company in Traverse City and mailed from Omena. Today it is printed and mailed from the city in which the editor lives.

The Breeze subscription began at \$2.00 a year for two issues. In the May 1951 Breeze we found an ad that stated "The OTYC Breeze is mailed to all Club members whether subscribers or not. We Do Need Your Support." Since then it has slowly crept up, as the cost of printing increased, until today it is still a bargain at \$10 a year, but no one gets a free copy.

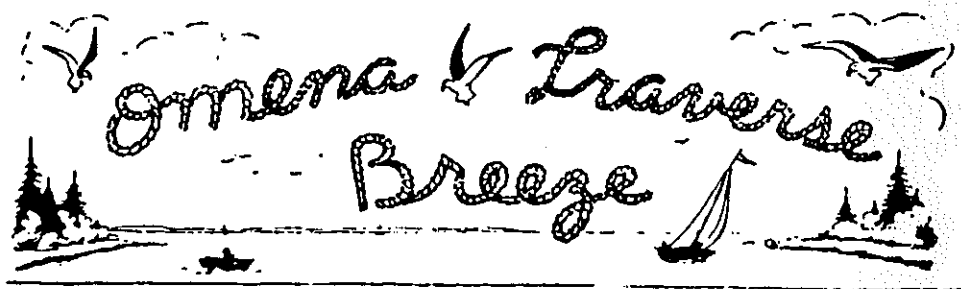
The special feature "Paper Party" put on by Humphrey Jackson for the financial benefit of the Breeze was unique and a great success. Everything was paper and some members even came dressed in paper.

At the beginning there were many articles about sailing and boat safety. Gus and others wrote about their experiences in other sailing races and argued the merits of sailboats vs. motorboats. Through the years the Breeze has kept us up to date on what the members were doing, including weddings, births and memorials. It has become the history of the OTYC with the minutes of the Annual Meeting, committee reports, and a message from the Commodore.

The Breeze has had many editors, assistant editors and reporters. Each editor brought his or her own ideas and creativity to the Breeze. In 1949 the editors were Gus Rogers, J.C. Finn Jr., and Sabra Saxton. Humphrey Jackson became the editor in 1950 and served until 1957. From 1955-57 he was ably assisted by Marilyn Flett and at different times Pat Verdery, Mary Helen Ayars, Horace Wheeler, and Holly Renz served as reporters. Humphrey was followed by Hazel Taylor who was editor from 1957-61, when Humphrey again became editor until 1966. Preston Smith assumed the editorship from 1966-1975. Mary Helen Ray was editor from 1975-1980, followed by Carolin (Rat) Renz, 1980-84. Mary Tonneberger and Frank Gaffney edited the Breeze 1984-91 and Betsy Ehrhardt and Margy Lyon 1991-97. The current editor is Suzie Mulligan.

Lillian Taylor deserves much credit for the continuing success of the Breeze as she served for many years as the assistant editor and oversaw the layout and printing of each issue.

The Breeze is an ongoing documentation of the Club activities and history.



OTYC FOUNDERS FUND

On August 1, 1975, the Directors of OTYC created the Founders Fund for the purpose of establishing and maintaining an Endowment Fund in honor of the Club's Founders, the income from which shall be utilized principally for Capital Improvement, and major repairs to the Club's facilities as needed, and secondarily for certain operating expenses as required. The purpose of the Fund is not to replace, nor to minimize the importance of the Dues Income, but to add long range stability to the Club's financial planning. Disbursement of the Fund's Income shall be made in such a way as to preserve and improve the facilities of the Club for the enjoyment of both the present members and of generations to come.

Miss Clemewell Lay made the very welcome initial gift of \$100.00 to begin the Founders Fund. Anyone may donate to the Fund, in any amount, and is encouraged to do so as a means of protecting the long term interests of the Club. Many Club members have donated in memory of an OTYC friend or family member. As originally structured, gifts could be earmarked for tennis, Clubhouse or waterfront, if the donor so desired. Through the years most have given without stipulating where their donation should be used.

The first expenditure for the Fund was in 1993 when the Founders Fund contributed \$3,421.43 to help pay for the rebuilding of the second floor porch of the Clubhouse. This amount was the interest earned by the Fund from 1986 through 1992.



POTLUCK PROGRAMS



Traditional Indian lore and history are the subject of Lois Beardsley's talk following potluck.



Members ask Charlie Oberndorf to sign copies of his book, *Testing*.



Emma and Ellie First enjoy meeting Boop the clown.

POTLUCKS

One of the earliest activities of the Yacht Club was the occasion of the Potluck Suppers. Begun almost as early as the Club itself, the Potlucks were the center of the OTYC. Here we saw everyone, discussed problems, met new neighbors and learned of Club activities. At the time of the Yacht Club's beginnings, those who lived on Omena Point rarely knew those who lived on Ingalls Bay and vice versa. The Potlucks were a way of getting these two groups together. At first the social chairman of the summer would set a menu for the week and each family would bring one of the items on that menu. Fried chicken, green beans and a salad, or meatloaf and scalloped potatoes were popular those first years, the meals ending with cherry pie, chocolate cake, or perhaps pudding.

Junior members, initially Mary Helen Ayars and Carolin Smith and later Margy and Betsy Lyon, would ride around on their bikes or walk to each house on the Point and Ingalls Bay and, after announcing the menu, would ask people what they would like to bring. In those days of few phones and almost no walking or jogging and mingling such as we see these days, a visit to the Post Office was possibly the only socialization that many indulged in, so the cottagers looked forward to the girls' weekly visits. The girls, of course, felt they were very much a part of the total scheme of things and so they were. Those OTYC members who did not live on Omena Point or Ingalls Bay were telephoned with menu particulars. It was several years before members were asked to sign up at the Yacht Club. The charge for the potlucks was 25 cents.

Once a year Mary Louise Basler fixed a chili supper for everyone. She prepared **ALL** the chili herself for the entire crowd, bringing two huge roasters full to the Club. The Opening Dinner for years was turkey with all the fixings, with Helen Smith coordinating that for quite a few years. She cooked at least one turkey each year, sometimes two, and inveigled one or two others into cooking turkeys also. Selected men did the carving, and the dinner was served buffet style, much as we serve today. Mrs. Smith also often made lemon meringue dessert for this occasion.

The potlucks were a chance not only to meet those who lived in different

areas, but also to mingle the ages and experience. Ninety year olds were seated next to toddlers, young people of different age groups got to know one another, summer people met full time residents. Lasting friendships were forged those early years and members were truly interested in each other's lives. This was shown in the Breeze articles members wrote, sharing their winter experiences and always commenting when they were in contact with a fellow Club member.

By 1950 the Yacht Club functions included the regular potlucks, square dancing, a Bingo Party (then a once-a-year event), a Card Party, and the Commodore's Ball, the big event of the summer. In later summers Lestra Saxton organized an annual White Elephant Party. The same girls who went around announcing the potlucks now had the additional responsibility of making and selling tickets for these events. Most of the families in those early years looked forward to both the potlucks and special events and rarely missed any of the activities, including the Lightning races each Sunday. Pre-potluck parties were also prevalent during the early years, where one family would invite one or two other families over for cocktails and snacks before going to the Yacht Club. It was a great way to entertain because you knew just when the party would end, and you weren't responsible for any evening entertainment since everyone was going to the Club for dinner at 6:30.

Helen Smith was the first Social Chairman, assisted by Ruth Ayars, Gwen Pike, Agnes Barker, Marjorie Renz, Hazel Taylor, Mary Louise Basler and Ruth DeVore. Helen started the now typical schedule of a potluck dinner every week during July and August, and encouraged the parties on Saturday night. Hostesses and kitchen supervisors were appointed for the various functions. Later kitchen help was hired as needed.

Some of the potlucks were enhanced by the appearance of Eliza Chippewa, a fictitious character originated by one of our most creative Club members. Eliza instructed us in unique table manners and the art of stoic silence.

There have been numerous people throughout the years who have come to the forefront to lead and assist in a variety of projects and activities.

Kathy Bosco, Barb Harris and Linda Cherne certainly are towards the top of this long list. These women have been involved with originating and executing creative ideas and activities.

Nearly every female member of the Club has either been a Social Chairman or a hostess, and in all years they have done an outstanding job. In the early years Hattie White, Kitty Smith, Martha Feely, Irma Laming, Elizabeth Keye, Ruth Fleming, Marion Finn, Peg Morse, Beatrice Gardner, Frances Lyon, Marguerite Rule, Ellie Stephenson, Joan Roth and Martha Smith were among those helping and chairing the social functions.

In later years, among the chairmen and hostesses have been Ruth Gorham, Grace Mack, Mary Louise Root, Nancy Weiss, Chris Misangyi, Gennie Grossman, Marion Jones, Mary Smith, Joan Kiersey, Kay Harris, Margy Lyon, Betsy Ehrhardt, Peggy Deal, JoAnn Bishop, Mary Tonneberger, Marty Bills, Alice Gelakoski, Trudy Lewis, Carolyn Marbach, Caroline Oberndorf, and Mary Woolford. Also in this group have been Marsha Buehler, Betty Gregory, Ping Abbot, Gina Moore, Elizabeth Schleef, Lynn Spitznagel, Pat Bailey, Melissa Chenault, Mary Jo Brumbaugh, Marcia Biskupski, Mary Cone, Mary Helen Ray, Suzie Mulligan, Connie Martineau, Nana Kennedy, Joey Bensley and Judy Knorp, aided by other committees for each potluck or social function.

In the last couple of decades, Jonnie Hodgson planned programs to follow each Potluck. Fashion shows, card parties, game evenings, local issue discussions and musical cultural gatherings have kept members happy, entertained and educated. We have enjoyed "An Evening on Omena Bay," Wine Tasting, Herb Gardening, the "Leelanau People" puppets, some storytellers, and several authors. Frank Ettawageshik, a member of the Little Traverse Band of Ottawa Indians, a storyteller and traditional Woodland Indian potter, spoke, fascinating the audience with his discussion of Indian life and culture. The Leelanau Conservancy has educated us, as well as a National Park person, an Inland Seas Education Association spokesperson, and a speaker from Interlochen. Musical evenings featuring talented Yacht Club members and their families have been a part of our cultural enlightenment.

Motor boating was not to be overlooked. Bob Saxton, a college freshman from Wabash, tried to set up motor boat racing before the 1949 season. The Breeze included copies of many letters written from college dormitory desks. Bob wrote, "We want to keep professional racers out of these races for reasons of safety for our own drivers as well as the fact that the majority of our men cannot go to the extremes of expense necessary for a real racing outfit."

The early Breezes are filled with safety tips concerning boat maintenance and handling. Gus Rogers donated many hours, along with Bob Dressel, to teach sailing. Crammy Finn, the Morses, Paul Hill and Mary Foltz lent their crafts for pleasure sailing and lessons. It was a community endeavor to learn about the pleasures and respect of the waters of Omena and Grand Traverse Bay.

As the early years of the Yacht Club evolved, the community was aware that there was a good sized group of younger teens emerging. There was a predominance of girls with a smattering of a few boys. The bottom line was that a boat, smaller and easier to handle than a Lightning, and a great deal less expensive was needed for these early teens to learn to sail. Penguins were chosen. A Northport boat builder, Bill Livingston, constructed a fleet—the Rainbow Fleet—to be built of plywood and painted a variety of colors. The sails were a traditional white cotton. Oars were a part of the equipment so the learning sailors wouldn't be totally stranded in windless weather. The families who embarked on this sailing experience were: Lyons, Barkers, Renz, Smiths, Ayars, Jacksons, Gleasons, and Pikes. Again the Breeze contained many articles about equipment, launching procedures, weather conditions, maintenance details—all these were to educate the sailors, their families and future sailors in the Club. Penguomena Fleet #71 even entered sailing races in the Chicago River where the Smiths found it a bit more crowded than on the Omena waters. The experience was very official with registration of the boats and the awarding of trophies.

Commodore Dave DeVore was so enthusiastic about encouraging these 12-14 year olds in sailing, that he donated various sized model boats crafted by Hans Anderson of Northport fame, to all winners of the racing season.

Of course **all** participants were winners, hence each Penguin owner received a Hans Anderson model boat to keep. As future seasons evolved, trophies were flags from the Spartan Flag Company of Northport or enamel dishes made by the White family, along with traditional type trophies.

With early sailing activities, there was no actual youth director giving lessons. Any adult or youth who had knowledge in sailing or boat repair, helped others by volunteering his or her talent. Many a time the young (and older) sailors rounded the bay in Omena, only to run aground and snap a rudder or centerboard. With a kind, understanding smile Norm Johanning would emerge from his tool shed with just the item to repair a boat so that it could continue on its way. Somehow that shallow shoal continually surprised the unaware boaters.

As sailors became more comfortable with the Penguins and their one sail operation, it was thought that a two sail sailboat would teach people more of the basic principles of sailing. FJ class boats were introduced, but families did not gravitate towards them.

About that time the marvelous innovation of fiberglass was introduced and the Sunfish broke into the market. The price was right and the lack of maintenance was even better. The Sunfish fleet flourished in the late 60's, 70's and into the 80's. All ages owned and sailed them. Sailors were so enthusiastic to sail and race them that the boats were pulled by truck or large motorboat from Omena Bay to Ingalls Bay, depending on the direction of the wind. Junior sailors delighted in racing against seasoned sailors and learning the rules. In a gentle manner Joe Buell would conduct protest sessions after races to educate the participants in the racing rules. All ages, from playpen occupants to great grandmothers, watched the races and socialized on the beach or Yacht Club lawn. The youth of that era of the 70's had a preponderance of young boys sprinkled with a minority of young girls. All young muscles were put to use in helping each other transport the boats, buoys and sailing gear.

In the 90's the Yacht Club has been the recipient of many generous people who have permanently loaned or donated their boats to the Club so that anyone could take lessons whether or not their household owned a boat.

Quite a few Club members at the Yacht Club now own big sail boats that need the crew of many hands and deep water mooring.

Sailing has not only been confined to day adventures. For several years in the 50's and 60's there were Venetian Nights with canoes, motor boats, sailboats, bathtubs and rafts gracing the bay. Another adventure was "Anything That Floats" held in the 70's, which whetted the creative juices of many members. Landlubbers, amateur craftsmen and sailors all have participated in these gala events.



Penguomenia Fleet is briefed before racing.

GEORGE S. SMITH REGATTA

The George S. Smith Regatta began in 1960 and was an annual sailing race between the Omena-Traverse Yacht Club and the Grand Traverse Yacht Club. Contrary to what the name would imply, the OTYC did not begin this tradition. The Grand Traverse Yacht Club began it and dedicated it to George Smith, one of our early commodores, who they felt was so instrumental in their club's growth. In effect he told them it didn't make any difference whether or not they had a decent clubhouse or a dock—enthusiasm over the boats and racing was the important thing. Amusing when you think about it, because George Smith was definitely one of our landlubber commodores. He himself never owned a boat nor did he ever sail, except for one memorable experience when he took part in a father/daughter race at the Yacht Club and tipped the Penguin over while it was still in the harbor.

In early years, the George Smith Regatta was a two-day event, with races both Saturday and Sunday. Large committees organized refreshments when Omena was host, serving lunches to the sailors and spectators, lemonade and cookies through the afternoon and a brunch Sunday morning for the returning sailors. In 1977 it became a one-day regatta.

The competition between the two clubs went on for many years, alternating sites between Traverse City and Omena. All Lightning races for the first 13 years, the Regatta became a Sunfish race in 1973. The George Smith trophy was always given to the winner between these two yacht clubs, though other clubs and other sailors participated in the Regatta for prizes.

has been awarded intermittently during summer tournaments. During the past several years, it has been presented by Jack Bishop, our current tennis chairman, to the winners of our annual mixed-doubles tournament.

The court's proximity to overhanging trees and leaf accumulation not only adds beauty but brings with it additional maintenance requirements. Many is the time that die-hard combatants could be found fervently sweeping the surface after a rainfall, since the court is not pitched for normal runoff. Also, acorns and twigs naturally settle on the surface, with the occasional acorn missed in the clean-up providing an interesting variation in the ball's trajectory. Ant hills, especially near the back lines, can lead to some fancy unanticipated footwork by contestants, and players chasing balls bounding out of the court enjoy a picturesque environment during their search.

Yet it is the court's idyllic setting in the woods above Omena, with its view of the bay, that has led to its continuing popularity after more than 40 years.



Tennis tournament winners Drew Ehrhardt and Mike Biskupski discuss their best shots with runners-up Jack Bishop and Mary Tonneberger.



YOUTH PROGRAM

As interest in the Yacht Club evolved, there was a strong feeling of volunteerism. Absolutely everyone "on board" volunteered his talents, regardless what they were. Several adults became self appointed, unpaid youth directors. Mary Foltz had artistic talents plus a knack for organizing youngsters. A fire brigade type clean out line was formed and the old building was cleaned out of old boats, miscellaneous junk and debris. The balcony was crammed with stuff that was passed out to the parking lot.

Mary Foltz handed *everyone* paint brushes. If you didn't know how to paint rungs of chairs marine blue, you soon learned! The snack bar was built in the current washroom facilities, because, remember, there was no running water and the outside privy, where many spiders lived, was alongside the parking lot.

The snack bar was manned by Mary Helen Ayars and Rat Smith. The main challenge was the ice-icebox. They turned back the clock of time and learned how to empty the drip pan and tote large hunks of ice which Ole Kiersey delivered. It came from the ice house behind Anderson's store in Omena where Tamarack currently is. After about five years, enough donations were scraped together to get running water, a restroom and finally a coke machine.

Mary Foltz also organized the youth to make the stage curtains. It was a junior high sewing lesson put to practical use. Some of those white strips still are being used.

Humphrey Jackson shared his many artistic talents and organized the members to make invitations and decorations around theme parties with fund raising in mind. The Electric Party raised money for new wiring; the Paper Party (complete with paper clothes) raised funds to print the Breeze. On a rainy or inclement day, there was no question as to where to go, but down to the OTYC to work on projects and socialize.

When it came time to raise funds for the purchase of the Club from the Carmichaels, the youth were asked to solicit pledges from the adults. With

everyone volunteering and working, the spirit was contagious and jobs got done. There was a constant sense of having fun.

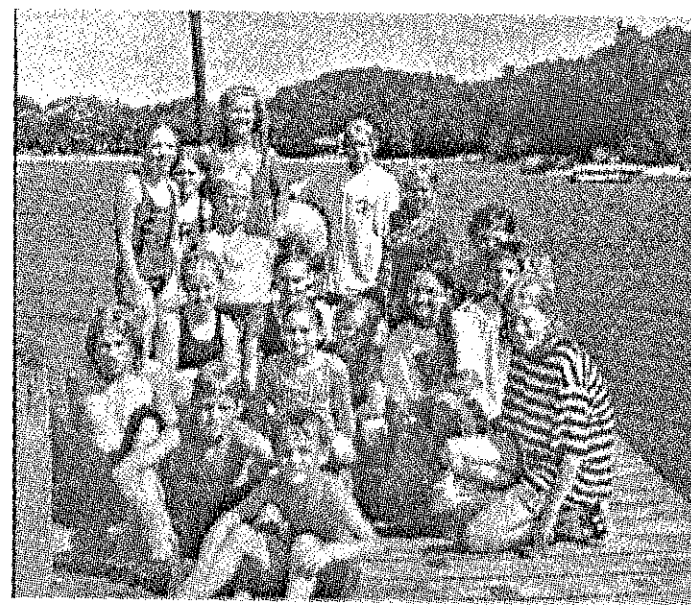
In the 60's, the Club members realized it would be great to have some camp-type experiences for the youth and yet not have the young people so organized that they didn't have time for themselves. The Club began to hire youth directors. There have been directors who lived on and off the property. They've taught crafts, rainy day activities, sailing, wind surfing, tennis and swimming. There has been overnight camping on local beaches and on South Manitou Island. Rump bumping, water parks and trips to the sand dunes have kept everyone happy. Some groups have created plays, talent shows, hobby displays, and held car washes and pet shows.

When the Club began, the Carmichaels were most concerned that the youthful gatherings not be marred by alcohol. Chaperones were present always after 8 pm and no drinking was allowed on the grounds at any time. This atmosphere was respected, and many an evening activity ended with a community "Sing" on the upstairs porch led by strong voices and budding guitar players. Mixers that joined all ages were Virginia Reels and square dances. For many years the Heidricks and Barkers led all ages in square dancing. Charles Heidrick called the dances in the Texas style and records were used when he returned to Texas.

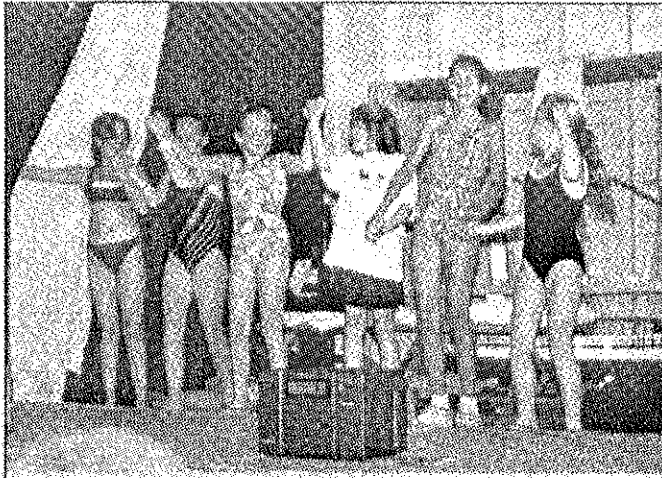
Both youth and parents eagerly anticipate each new summer's activities. Awards for participation and recognition of accomplishments are given by the instructors at the end of the season to the enthusiastic applause of Club members. Today the Youth Program is a vital part of our Club.



Youth Program in Progress



Instructors Robin Vilter and Jason Petty pose with the youth group on the OTYC dock.



Kate Prichard, Suzanne Mason, Catherine Bucholz, Natalie Bender, Caroline Turner and Chelsea Mason are on stage for the finale of "Brownlocks and the Three Bears."



Windsurfing techniques are passed on to Brian Gelakoski by his instructor, Dennis Turner.

THE GRAND PARTIES

The Fifties were the years of the famous OTYC parties. Most of the parties were given for fun and to help raise money for Club expenses. The Paper Party raised money to publish the Breeze.

The Electric Party helped raise funds for the rewiring of the Yacht Club. Invitations in the form of Western Union Wires were distributed to each member. Consumers Power Company of Traverse City gave permission to use Reddy Kilowatt to advertise the party and for decorations. There were fifty dollars worth of door prizes given by local merchants and Breeze advertisers. There was a wonderful floor show prepared. The singing of "The Electric Girl" by Leona Milroy dressed as a French Chanteuse opened the show. "The Dance of the Firefly" given by Carol Underwood accompanied by Harriet White, was sparkling, dainty and appropriate to the occasion. Marilee Milroy gave an original interpretation of the Fire Dance. The Electric-doodles mystified and amazed many of the group as some had never played the game before. This part of the floor show was conducted in proper "Roger Price" fashion. Prizes for guessing these were various electrical items. Melvin and Gwen Pike dreamed up a skit portraying life before and after the invention of electricity. An added feature was the appearance of Mr. Frances Keye, brother of Vernon, who gave his interpretation of Liberace. Refreshments consisting of ice cream and chocolate chip cookies were served at the end of the floor show.

In 1958 the Club had a surprise "This Is Your Life, Jessie Carmichael." Many people participated. Some came from far away and others sent telegrams. Geno Herrick and Hazel Taylor wrote the script and Jessie was given a corsage and a beaded purse.

Other feature parties included:

1955: THE MASQUERADE PARTY—Everyone likes to dress up! Fantastic, grotesque, humorous, bizarre and authentic historical costumes were in evidence. Prizes went to Jane and Bob Newland dressed as grotesque beings with enlarged heads and dwarfed bodies, Halbert White, who wore his Hawaiian shirt and bathing suit over long underwear and Eben Barker, who came as an Indian chief with a great bearskin robe.

- 1956: CIRCUS PARTY — The clubhouse was decorated like a circus with circus music playing. Costumes were worn by many members who came as bearded ladies, clowns, freaks and animals. Refreshments included popcorn, hot dogs, donuts and pink lemonade. After the Grand Parade there were acts of various kinds. Everyone had a good time.
- 1956: GREENWICH VILLAGE PARTY — Artists painted in the street, a wandering minstrel played and sang requests and the evening ended with social dancing.
- 1957: "I'VE GOT A SECRET" PARTY — This party was put together in 48 hours. Humphrey Jackson played Gary Moore, the Master of Ceremonies. The panel consisted of Dave DeVore, Harriet White, Waldo Abbot Sr. and Mary Louise Gleason. Secrets of some of the guests were: Joe Alcorn at one time owned three beauty parlors; Emily Smith, well known artist, once flunked an art course.
- 1957: THE TACKY PARTY — Everyone came looking their shabbiest. White Elephants were exchanged with great hilarity. Waldo Abbot Sr. got a maternity dress and Halbert White a book entitled "The Motheaten Mink Coat."

Other parties were the Mardi Gras Party in 1951, the Evening In Paris in 1953, Round the World Party in 1957, Casino and Millionaire Party and Country Fair Party in 1958, ending in 1959 with the Kiddie Party and the Hawaiian Party.

Less elaborate events that were enjoyed by members and were good fund raisers were the Annual Card Party, Auction and White Elephant Sale. There were also Art, Hobby and Flower Shows.

The highlight of each season was the Commodore's Ball, when we honored our Commodores. Members came in all their finery and enjoyed ballroom dancing and light refreshment in the gaily decorated clubhouse. Later this became the Commodores' Reception where a committee brought hor d'oeuvres for all to enjoy and punch was served. This was often followed by a Founders Fund catered dinner, the proceeds of which went to the Founders Fund.

VENETIAN NIGHTS

The Yacht Club's first Venetian Night was held in the summer of 1953. It would go down in history as one of the significant steps toward making the Yacht Club a place for members to enjoy various activities, not only as participants but also as spectators. Afterwards the committee did realize that we needed more spotlights and lights at the end of the dock to show off the boats. A blue ribbon went to Jane Basler, Sabra Saxton and their friends for the most unusual and original boat—four babies in a bassinet. Over 4,000 paper napkins were tucked into a chicken wire form of the bassinet. Blue ribbons also went to Mary Foltz for her gondola with an accordion player, and to Dr. Melvin Pike for his beautifully carved white foam swan with a second figure of a mermaid sitting on the prow of the boat. Second place was awarded to Holly Renz, whose Penguin was decorated with pinwheels; to Mary Helen Ayars whose boat was decorated with crepe paper streamers; to Sue Barker, whose boat carried strings of brightly colored pennants fastened to the mast wires; to Margy and Betsy Lyon, whose Penguin was bedecked with crepe paper and balloons and was lighted with flashing red and white beach lanterns, and to Rat Smith, whose Penguin was decorated to represent a pirate ship flying a flag with skull and crossbones, lighted with red and green ship lanterns. Rat was attired in the outfit of a captain of the pirate ship.

The second Venetian Night in 1954 was held in the full moon and a light breeze. The Ayars boat had a windmill on top, on one side was printed "The Win(d) We Lost" and on the other side "Blow Breeze Blow." Sue Barker's boat was "Paul Bunyan and Babe, the Blue Ox." The Lyon Penguin was appropriately decorated to represent Daniel in the Lyon's Den. Clever lion faces were painted on shaggy straw hats and the lions could be seen poking their heads out of a cave at the rear of the boat. Daniel was standing amidst the shrubbery in front, unafraid and very brave. The Jackson Whiffenpoof was turned into a tub which symbolized the nursery rhyme "Rub-A-Dub-Dub, three men in a tub." The Butcher was Jim Jackson, the Baker Eddie Lyon and the Candlestick Maker was David Jackson, each holding symbols of his profession.

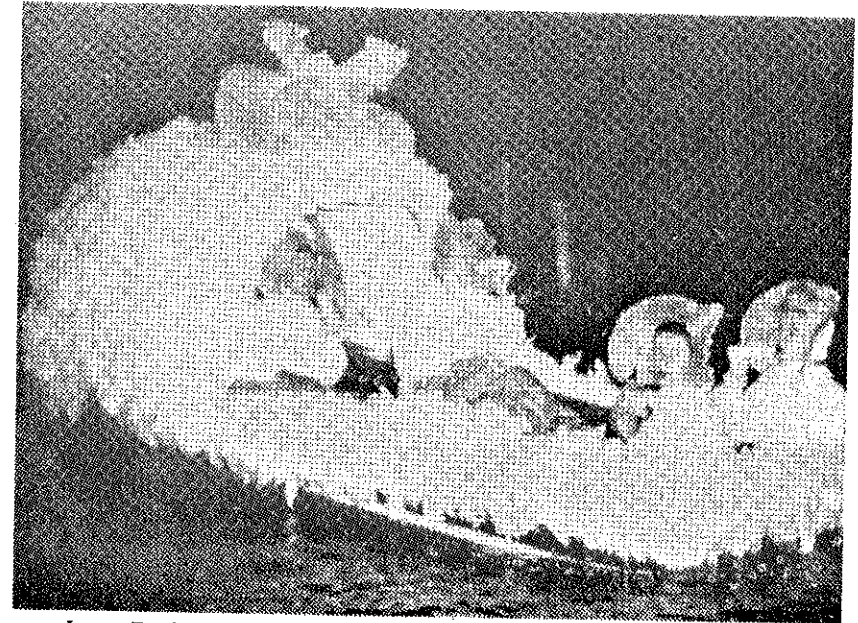
Holly Renz created Maude, the local steam engine train. It even had the cow catcher and engineer's bell. Since Rat Smith was unable to attend due to illness, her friends made a "Missing Rat" float. The empty chair, large question marks and detective searching for Rat was humorous and well received. Marilyn Flett's "Show Boat" with real smoke and paddle wheels won first place. "Paul Bunyan" was second and "Maude" third.

The third Venetian Night in 1955 was another success! The Renz cruiser was decorated to represent the U.S. Battleship Missouri and towed the Jackson Penguin which was decorated as an Indian tepee. Dave Jackson and Eddie Lyon attired as "Redskins" held red flares to light up the decorations. The Lyon Penguin carried a giant totem pole and was manned by Margy and Betsy Lyon in Indian costumes. The Ayars Penguin carried a model of the Clubhouse and the Smith Penguin carried a large Penguin, symbol of the racing Penguin Fleet. Hattie and Dale Underwood rigged up a Tramp Steamer which carried everything but the kitchen sink. It was awarded first place tied with the Renz Missouri.

Out of the darkness came a floating island complete with Indian Tepee and Lestra Saxton smoking a peace pipe beside a fire. This float tied for second with the DeVore's "United Nations" carrying the Statue of Liberty and Uncle Sam with members of different nations aboard. Third place went to Mary Helen Ayars' "Club House" and Rat Smith's Penguin.

This Venetian Night was followed by Stunt Night at the OTYC. First to perform was Eben Barker who gave several recitations in dialect. The next performance was given by Harriet and Dale Underwood who played duets on recorders, a flute type instrument of medieval times. Gwen and Melvin Pike gave a charming exhibition of some of the popular dances.

FUN AT OTYC

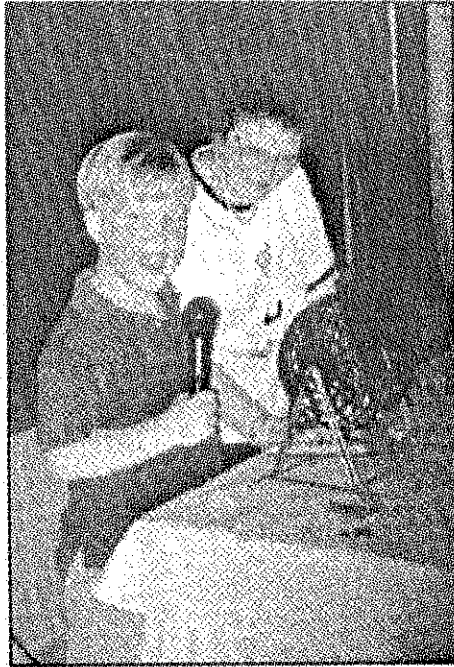


Janey Basler, Sabra Saxton and crew of Babies in a Bassinet at Clubs Venetian Night.

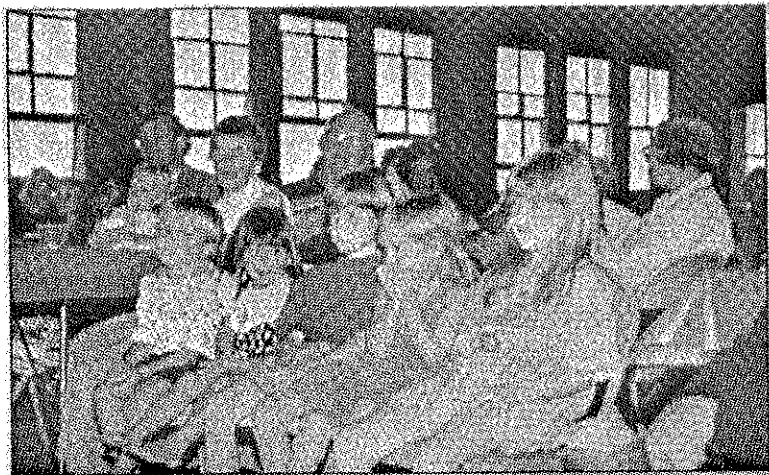




FUN AT OTYC



George Tate uses the microphone to help Barb Harris call bingo numbers.



Enjoying the Show.

MEMBERSHIP

The first 38 members of the Omena- Traverse Yacht Club, as listed in the February 1949 Omena- Traverse Breeze, were:

Gus Rogers
Mary Moore
Jane Basler
Betty Basler
Craig Smith
Marianne Schaefer
Joe Cloud
Mary Schaefer Foltz
Frederick Schaefer
Bill Renz
Andrew C. Renz
Sidney Morse
Stewart V. Ayars
Alice Ayars
Bob Dressel
Frank Kalchik
Earl Moore
J. Crampton Finn, Jr.
John H. Kinsey

Hector M. Carmichael
Horace Wheeler
Nancy Jo Wheeler
Frank Anderson
John Putnam
Myles Kimmerly
A.J. Rogers II
Ben I. Taylor
Vern Osterberg
Bob Osterberg
Ada Newman
May Griffin
Lestra Saxton
Robert Morse
Jane Morse
Tom Morse
Eben Barker
David DeVore
Kitty Calvert Smith

These were the members at the time of the Yacht Club's incorporation in 1948.

We took the liberty of correcting misspelled names on this list, but printed them in the order they appeared in this early Breeze.

HONORARY MEMBERS

The Membership Chairman's book shows the following as having been given Honorary Memberships as of May 1998:

Hector and Jessie Carmichael
 Fred Gorham
 Robert Morse
 Andrew Renz
 Jane Basler Newland
 Earl and Blanche Moore
 Lillian Taylor
 Hazel Clark Taylor
 Helen Reed
 Mary Louise Vail
 Harold Root
 Humphrey Jackson
 Elizabeth Keye
 Mary Foltz
 Grace Mack
 Walter Gardner

1997 MEMBERSHIP LIST

according to the Membership Chairman, Barbara Harris

Year Joined	Name
1952	Abbot, Waldo & Ping
1950	Alcorn, Joe
1992	Anderson, Brenda (Abbot)
1978	Bailey, Robert & Pat
1997	Balas, Bruce & Judy
1994	Bensley, Larry & Joey
1991	Bills, Marty (Feely)
1967	Bishop, Jack & JoAnn
1993	Biskupski, Michael & Marcia
1953	Bosco, Michael & Kathy
*	Bosco, Mark & Amanda (Schwarze)
*	Bosco, Jeff & Tami
*	Bosco, Matt & Trish
1993	Bosgraaf, Jack & Nancy
1986	Brumbaugh, David & Mary Jo (Woolford)
1989	Buehler, Tom & Marsha
1990	Chenault, Larry & Melissa
1960	Cherne, Al & Linda
1987	Cone, Sam & Mary
1997	Cooper, Randy & Nancy (Roth)
1978	Deibel, Gil & Annette
*	Dickerson, Eden (Silverman)
1978	DiLoreto, Phil
1983	DiLoreto, Robert & Susan
1972	Disch, Les & Debby (Smith)
1960	Ehrhardt, Drew & Betsy (Lyon)
*	Ehrhardt, Robert & Martha
1996	Fisher, Joel & Mary
1952	Flett, Marilyn
1996	Frohman, Jack & Bercie
1953	Gardner, Walter

1997 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Year Joined	Name
1977	Gelakoski, Robert
1977	Gelakoski, Alice
1967	Gorham, Fred & Ruth
1961	Graf, William & Marilyn
1980	Gregory, James
1966	Griffiths, Sydney
1991	Grosmark, Jay & Barbara
1981	Gross, James & Sue
1976	Grossman, Harold & Genevra
1966	Hallett, Nancy Weiss
*	Harris, Doug & Sarah (Schwarze)
1984	Harris, Jay & Kay (Heitzman)
1978	Harris, John & Barbara
1995	Hines, Jeanne
1960	Hodgson, Jonnie (Rule)
1950	Jackson, Humphrey
1988	Johnson, Robert & Maria
1971	Jones, Austin & Marion
1988	Kennedy, Dick & Nana
1951	Kiersey, Ole & Joan (English)
1993	Knorp, Bill & Judy
*	Kosanovich, Mark & Missy (Bosco)
1950	Kulick, Pat (Taylor)
1972	Lewis, Robert & Trudy
1996	Loveless, William & Mary
1950	Lyon, Margaret
1995	Mack, Millard & Helene
1983	Marbach, William & Carolyn
1986	Martineau, Robert & Connie
1992	Mason, Bill & Lynne
*	McKenzie, Mike & Linda (Ray)

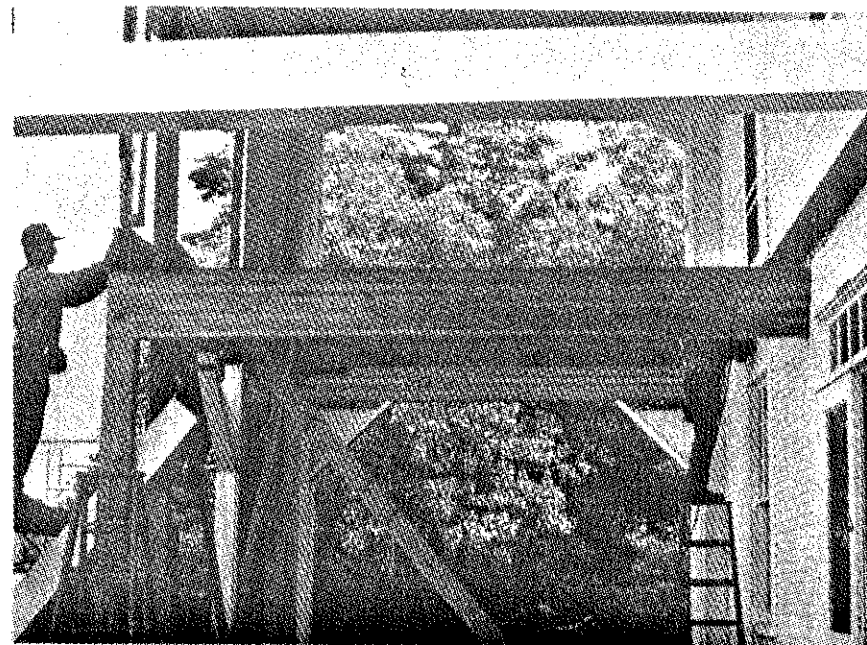
1997 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Year Joined	Name
1976	McMenamy, Bill & Paula
1995	McNeil, Janet
1969	Melville, Jane
1985	Moore, Vin & Gina
1986	Moore, Eric & Martine
1984	Mueller, Guenther & Jean
1973	Mulligan, John & Suzanne
*	Mulligan, Scott & Karen
1992	Neidhardt, Fred & Chipault, Geri
1950	Oberndorf, Ed & Caroline (Gleason)
1997	Parker, Geoffrey & Betsy
1951	Ray, John & Mary Helen (Ayars)
1993	Read, Alan & Charlotte (Smiley)
1948	Renz, William & Carolin (Smith) 1951
*	Renz, Bill & Tish
1967	Robinson, Alis (Rule)
1961	Root, Harold & Mary Louise
1956	Roth, Joan (DeVore)
1982	Sandt, Bill & Nancy
1982	Sarvis, John & Mary Louise
1948	Saxton, Jane (Morse)
1995	Saxton, Clark & Stacy
1972	Schleef, Dan & Liz
1981	Schwarze, Fred & Ann
*	Schwarze, Carl & Priscilla
1997	Silkworth, Chuck & Kay
1982	Silverman, Gary & Carol
1997	Smart, John & Judy
1960	Smiley, James B.
1948	Smith, Craig
1951	Smith, Holly (Renz)

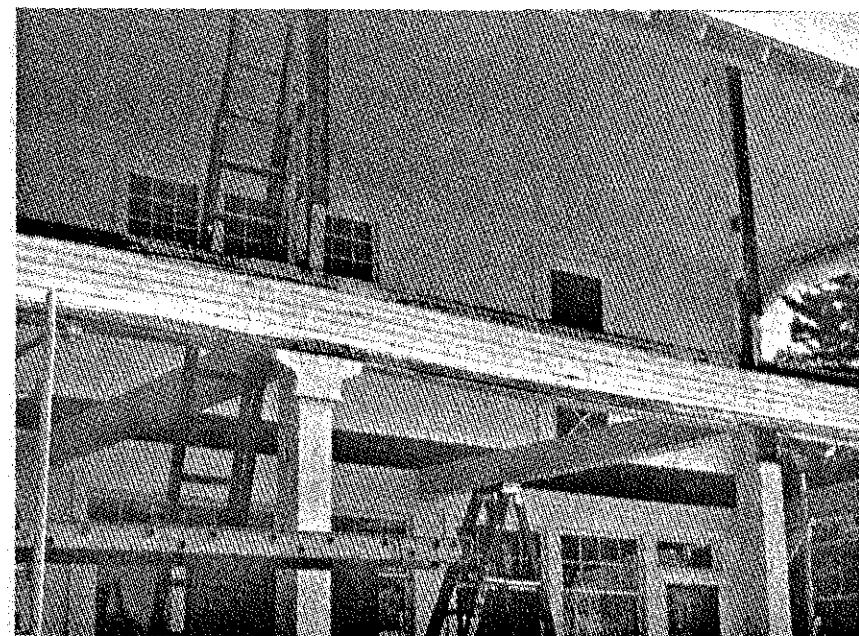
1997 MEMBERSHIP LIST

Year Joined	Name
1996	Smith, Suzy (Saxton)
1956	Smith, Tom & Mary
*	Sova, Anthony
1983	Spitz-Nagel, Lynn & Lynn
*	Spitz-Nagel, Eric
*	Spitz-Nagel, Mark & Amy
1982	St. John, D.J
1995	Standley, Jeff & Cindy
1960	Stephenson, Jack & Ellie
*	Storey, John & Elizabeth (Schwarze)
1956	Tate, Shepherd & Janet
1977	Tonneberger, Ron & Mary
1991	Turner, Dennis & Kathy
1992	Varley, Joe & Cate
1966	Weiss, Jack
1992	White, Glenn & Delcie
1996	Williams, Lee & Stuart (Saxton)
1960	Woolford, Mary
1986	Woolford, Chuck

* Junior Members who became full adult members at age 24.



Zimmerman Construction installs a new beam.



The old beam has rotted through.

MAJOR REPAIRS 1