

# ERIE YACHT CLUB LOG

February Log 1968

Well, friends - it has been a month! That last week-end in January the old Anchorage really swung!

Here's Jim McKnight's report on the Stag:--

"On Friday the 26th of January, the Annual Stag Party was held at E.Y.C., -lights dim - doors locked - the bird cage taken down to allow for the sealing off of our pictorious windows with their icy viwe. (about time someone cleaned that cage). Old faces took up their familiar posts.

Bouncer Martin - on the front door with the job only he can do. Mixoligest Jack for the juice of refreshment, Cold hand (Gib) Loesel Green Shade and all - gave away funds to all who ventured his way. Stick man Nick kept things straight - as out they came - what a banker he makes!

Wheel of luck Rickloff runs a mean wheel to all that were there-know what I mean. The winners ran high, no one could lose. Al gave it away so fast, one ready to leave said 'I'll give it all back and put it in your refrigerator' (thanks to a far sighted member).

As in the past this night was run by members of D.O.M. for the Yacht Club with all proceeds turned over to the entertainment committee to help run the years activities.

The Ground Breaking Ceremony on Saturday afternoon contained a few surprises: Frank Zurn had to take-off for Florida to bake out the virus; P/C Ben Ginader took time for the line-up, despite a 6:00 o'clock dinner engagement - and P/C Bob Way declared that the GOLD on the shovel could withstand anything. That night Lou's prime rib feast was served to some 160 people. There has seldom been a better party - good will reigned supreme.

The elegance and decorum of the occasion was high-lighted by an impromptu "cork-ball" training session of the Non-iceboating League. Captain Lew (Sandy Cold-Facts) Klahr up at bat with his trusty champagne bottle shillelagh - pitcher Rich Loesel put a fast break in the cork - short stop Al Rickloff, first baseman Paul Brugger - backed by Lorne Rusk catcher from the bleachers. (Dottie and Flossie were the Dodgers) Truly a demonstration of hitherto hidden skills. Later - Chuck Dressler & Dimensions sounded-out the group - and the dance was on! They had as much fun as we did. This makes a party every time.

EDITOR: T. C. Schuyler, 303 Roslyn Ave., Phone 833-4836

CLUB OFFICERS: Commodore G. Wm. Ambro; Vice Commodore George H. Deike; Rear Commodore Richard O. Loesel; Fleet Captain George H. Sipple; Secretary-Treasurer T. Ken Welsh

DIRECTORS: P/C Ben J. Ginader; T. J. McFate; P/C R. B. Way; P/C D. B. Nagle, Jr.; T. J. Schuler; Dave Lund

Next day we rolled out the Log - with the help of Bob and Pat Mangan, Eddie Irvin and Valerie Cassidy - who will be our crew again this month. Nice to see the Serafini family en masse that afternoon - enjoying Lou's cuisine. Also the C. Dean Klahr family that evening. C. Dean may be said to have fathered our small boat racing fleet over the years - and a sizeable progeny it is!

The Distaff side showed up fifty strong for the luncheon on Feb. 1st Esther Hirsch and Madelaine Watson were the committee in charge - not only were the table decorations to be admired - but to bring order out of mass confusion! Well now! What with the so-called permanent list, the Telephone Committee - and Mesdames Rusk and Wagner taking reservations, confusion was worse confounded.

Ladies - please - your luncheon reservations go to:

Mrs. Harold Wagner 833-4450  
Mrs. Lorne Rusk 864-6816

As our Lady Commodore succinctly put it "The permanent list is dead". One gathers that the Telephone Committee will continue to function? Betty Walker is in charge of the next Luncheon Thursday March 7th.

The ladies are indebted to Dick Swanson - who appeared on five minutes' notice to raffle off gift certificates to Philips Jewelers. The lucky winners were Ginny Boldt and Bernie Wagner. Agnes Rusk "passed-the-hat" for donations on Dorce Beddow's donation. One of our guests - Charlotte Schultz - won the wiglet. Nick has tickets at the Bar for the Wig, which will crown some lucky lady at the luncheon March 7th.

Ladies (and Gentlemen) - please remember to clear dates & plans for use of the Club House with Rich Loesel. This simple courtesy averts controversy - to say nothing of jam-ups at the Bar and in the dining-room.

#### E D I T O R I A L

I don't believe our local paper is presenting both sides of the "Drilling in Lake Erie" case now being considered.

Dr. Maurice Goddard has recommended that the Commonwealth proceed with franchising Industry to permit drilling. This is fine from an income standpoint, possibly; and Dr. Goddard, whom we mostly all respect, has stated he will draw up restrictions, rules, or laws that will absolutely prevent pollution. Fine!

Dr. Goddard is, however, only one man - and a human being - and the Commonwealth is dealing with business - BIG BUSINESS.

I ask you all, including Yachtclubber Wendell Good, how effective have our laws, - State & National, been preventing business from polluting Lake Erie - or our air - or anything else, almost at will?

Should Dr. Goddard happen to be separated from his present position, for any reason, what assurance do we have that his successors would have his power, drive and good will to preserve our National Resources?

Further, I believe the drill rigs will present a truly major hazard to small vessel navigation. I'm speaking not of the relatively few large commercial vessels - radar equipt - who may come near the rigs; but of the literally hundreds of private vessels that cross and

coast the shores of Lake Erie under a wide variety of visual conditions.

I've experienced unexpected meetings with drill-rigs along the Canadian shores on owly-hazy, and foggy days and nights. In spite of brilliant lights they appear unexpectedly and in a sailing vessel especially can be a problem.

Visualize yourself, setting a compass course from Long Point to Erie on a foggy Sunday afternoon - how will you thread the eye of the needle between them? Sort of like rolling a golf ball down a bowling-alley hoping to avoid the pins ! isn't it ?-----

POLLUTION OF OUR RIGHT-OF-WAY

On clear days - what a grand view - no imaginative uncluttered horizon - any passing ship will blend nicely with a structural maze ! Observe some magazine pictures of the swamp coasts along Louisiana -- we'll look like that -- all we'll need is the swamp - and Lake Erie is rapidly becomming one !

POLLUTION OF OUR VIEW

Rise up now and write to your Congressman ! !  
WILL OUR LOCAL PAPER - REPRINT ?

Ed.

In place of the second installment of Clarence C. Converse's "Erie's Bay, It's Yachts & Enjoyments", we're reprinting the delightful letter we received from P/C Don Sterrett, now a resident of Vero Beach, Fla. -- incidentally this is only one of many favorable comments we have had of this series afforded us by Gail Garren.

Dear Cort,

Thank you for the January LOG, and "ERIE'S BAY, IT'S YACHTS AND ENJOYMENTS", by CLARENCE C. CONVERSE".

"How dear to my heart are the scenes of our childhood, When fond recollection presents them to view." One has to be around a long time to really appreciate that sentiment, and that's how it is with me.

The Converse Commercial Hotel and Sample Room was handy to the depot, on the S.W. corner of 15th and Peach, and I only knew of Converse as a gentleman yachtsman and saloon keeper.

The yachts he mentions were important, oft repeated topics of conversation, and I wish I could adequately describe a typical Feb. Sun. Afternoon in the upper deckhouse of the Erie Yacht Club, some 20 years after the Converse essay.

A corner fireplace, with a generous cannel coal fire, there was no central heating, and down below the stove which you may remember seeing in the canoe house was the only other source of heat for the building. We all had winter underwear in those days.

A generous size center table, with neat piles of magazines, Rudder, (Thomas Fleming Day once came to attend a banquet at Station Number one, Lone Fisherman's Inn), Yachting, Herbert L. Stone was just getting it launched in 1908, and several hunting and fishing magazines, just waiting to be perused.

Comfortable chairs around the fireplace and by each window, occupied by V I P (to me) yachtsmen, Will Foster, Bill Walker's grandfather; Wm. H. F. Nick, Ed Nick's father, and keeper of the EYC SCRAPBOOK for a number of years; Alured Gibson, George Slocum, Carl Reichel, Will Morrison and others of that generation, while around

the edges, and not usurping the important chairs, Bill Braggins, Durk's father; Roy Slocum, John Fuchs, son of George who owned the Roamer at that, the Eichenlaub brothers, George Oberholzer, who with Glennis Meehan came to an untimely end in an iceboat collision with the cribs off Chestnut Street.

Many others, at various times, in Sunday dress, quiet, for this was a reading room, no liquor allowed on the place, but most of them contributed to the smoky aroma with cigars and pipes, including the seductive perfume of perique (?) latakia, and Imperial Cube cut, mixed with the every day fuel of Duke's Mixture, Bull Durham and Kentucky Burley.

On the walls were a few framed pictures of the yachts mentioned by Converse, printed from glass plates showing fine detail, and as twilight discouraged reading, reminiscences of those yachts, and the skills and accomplishments of Henny Rochin, Nig (Billy) Wells, Ted Knuth, Oscar Nick, Merv Frank and many others were told and retold.

Especially favored were the racing stories of Fred Ball's Corsair, and of her spectacular destruction in a waterspout off Lorain. Her huge tiller was later used on Will Morrison's cutter Miriam, which was built in 1903, I believe, and we employed Harry Ball, a younger brother of Fred, as caretaker at the club in the late twenties.

The cannel coal was consumed, but we separated the ashes as carefully as any Boy Scouts are instructed, got into coats, arctics and mittens and climbed the steps up to Front Street, as there was no road down to the club until later.

This may be too lengthy for you to even read, but those are the "fond recollections", and I thank you, Cort, for stirring them up.  
Sincerely, Don

Ken Welsh verifies above - tells about old triangular iceboat courses, Merv Frank top man on iceboat in those days--(Contemporaries--get Ken to tell you about those races---sounds great for any generation).

Old-timer Otto "Spike" Hershberger passed-away this month; a distinctive character - Spike.

Geo. Briggs' clippings of southern racing are on the bulletin board--thanks for sending them, Geo.

David Ambro -(Ensign) is in Rota, Spain - Base for the 6th Fleet --Weather Forecasting from India to Greenland. Yacht Club on Base has purchased 5 new Snipes - he is hoping to organize races.

\*\*\*\*\*Our thoughts and hopes are with the Mangan and Amthor families. Mark is in the Veterans Hospital - young Henry is recuperating from surgery in ZEM ZEM,\*\*\*\*\*

Letters to Editor - much appreciated ! here's another member's viewpoint; signed by George R. Metcalf III: -  
Dear Cort:

As usual I enjoyed reading your comments in the last issue of THE LOG.

However, there was one area that leaves me somewhat confused. In your last paragraph, you mentioned that over the years people have tried to make the Yacht Club like the Kahkwa Club or Erie Club, etc., but fortunately they have never succeeded. What bothers me is that now with a projected expense which could well exceed \$350,000 (with furnishings, land-scaping, and unplanned extras), I am very much in doubt as to what sort of a club we will in fact have. Certainly, without a drastically revised operating plan, the proposed facility cannot survive. It is this aspect which holds my greatest concern.

Yours for better boating,  
George

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Here's a word from Lew Klahr--our Oracle of the Iceboat Fleet

"Write about ice boating" Ye Editor said  
and I choked as a tear from my sad eye was shed  
Ice boating, ice boating, where have you been  
The ice boating season has yet to begin

Beautiful ice early, but not quite enough  
Came the winds swirling and froze it all rough  
Black clouds rolled in and with them the snow  
It snowed so hard we couldn't even go

Finally a thaw gave us a lake on the ice  
An afternoon of iceboating quite wet but quite nice  
Then came the big wind and blew ice all away  
Left nothing but water on our ice boating bay

But winter kept trying and froze it again  
We anticipated an iceboating weekend but then  
The wind picked up and it started to blow  
And it blew so hard it was foolish to go

It has blown every weekend until the last snow  
Which has covered the ice so we again cannot go  
This is our sad story of frustration, friend Cort  
Of our exciting but non-existent cold winter sport

\*\*\*\*\*

Eds note:---Swansons palatial Iceboat no. 114 (Arrow) has provided its owner 2 rides - the last one with a frec broken rib. ( and I was invited)

Bob Way, if he wants, will have to charter ESCAPADE from a new owner---likewise Zurns previous charter (Charelle) has been sold.

MARCH 1st---Friday---Spaghetti Family Dinner--\$1.35--plus regular Sea-Food. Special-imported Chianti wine available. LATER movies of old Erie (1932--1955) will be shown through the courtesy of Fleet Captain George Sipple.

The St. Pat's Dinner Dance will be Sat. March 16th Eddie Irvin in charge -- Dressler and Dimensions will play ( the group so well received at the Champagne Dinner Dance). This is always a great party. (Eddie and the Bob Mangans did their usual great job of decorating for the Valentine's Party on Feb. 17th. Despite a conflicting Social agenda on the Erie scene -- the Membership rallied round before, during and after other commitments). The Dick Wallers are taking reservations for St. Pat's. phone 455-4332--or leave word with Nick.

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Secretary-Treasurer Kenny Welsh has only a semi-encouraging report of our progress in gathering funds for the new Club House - thus far. The list of contributing members, which follows on the next page, totals 130 from a membership of almost 500 -- about a third. Certainly more than a third of you use your Club -- the group contributing are certainly distinguished -- why not join them.

If for no other reason, your loans - contributions - gifts or goods or services represent an eventual savings to you. The more we have, or the less we have to borrow, the lower the interest and the cost of financing; - means fewer dollars for you to pay in the future!

We all decry the Fed. Gov't's deficit financing - take heed and don't do likewise !

Go down the hill and see some amazing progress - the piling is in, ready for ground beams and structural steel --- this is being BUILT RIGHT, TO LAST, and is expandable if required -- and as Erie grows, so will the Erie Yacht Club, and it's yours to Will to the future.

JOIN THE GANG ! !

So long  
Cort

THE FOLLOWING EYC MEMBERS HAVE PLEDGED LOANS OR MADE OUTFRIGHT GIFTS:

Bill Ambro	Ronald Fitzgerald	Frank Moore
Jack Anthor	Bill Forster	Gus Mork
Richard Anthor	George Fryling	Bailey Nagle
Tom Ashton	Art Fuhrman	Doug Nagle
Ted Bauer	Gail Garren	Richard Neuberger
Morril Bauman	Ben Ginader	Paul Nunes
C. H. Baumbach	F. Golden	LaSalle Padden
* David Beck	G. N. Gunnison	Bill Parker
P. A. Benson	Richard Gorney	Jim Partridge
Boyd Bert	Ralph Heard	Wes Plumpton
Jack Bierley	R. Hersey	Dave Preston
Bill Boice	John Herrmann	Jack Raimy
Art Boldt	Roy Irwin	Charles Reed
Jack Bonney	Chalmer Jordan	R. L. Reichel
John Brodie	Frances Jordan	Bob Roth
Paul Brugger	Marv Kitzmiller	Russell Roth
Eugene Buescher	Dean Klahr, Jr.	Clark Schuler
Fritz Busse	Lew Klahr	Dave Schuler
Eugene Conaway	Herb Kline	Ted Schuler
Bob Carney	Edwin Kolatorowicz	Tom Schuyler
Robert C. Chambers	R. Kolbe	Cort Schuyler
Robert W. Chambers	Tom Kuebler	Norm Seip
Jack Clemens	Al Kuhl	Bob Sevin
Forie Craton	J. D. Lasher	George Sipple
Merle Crowell	R. L. Lasher	Walter Sprau
Frank Crusciana	Don Leslie	Ed Stefanelli
Steve Csencsics	George Loesel	Chuck Taylor
Admiral Chas. Curtze	Dick Loesel	Jim Taylor
Fred A. Curtze	Gib Loesel	F. Tooze
Fred F. Curtze	Chuck Lund	Pete Traphagen
Alex Deemer	Dave Lund	H. Ul
George Deike	Ed Lutz	Bob Van Cleve
Harry DePaulis	Tom McFate	Harold Wagner
Don DeSautels	Curtis McKinney	Jim Walker
Stan Dockstader	Harold McLaren	Robert Walker
John Downie	Sandy MacIvor	Gordon Way
Chester Durst	J. M. Magenau	Bob Way
Clyde Eaton	Jack Marshall	Harry Weining
Lloyd English	Carl Mayr	Ken Welsh
Dick Eisenberg	George Metcalf III	Bob Williamson
Robert Enterline	Clarence Milks	Bert Wilson
John Filip	Howard Miskill	Everett Zurn
*William Behr	Ernie Nagle	Frank Zurn

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