



COMMODORE, DICK AMTHOR
So many sharp-eyed members of the club noticed that the photo of Commodore Dick Amthor in the last issue of the *Log* had two things wrong with it -- he had on his Fleet Captain's cap, and his new "cookie-duster" was missing, that we herewith run a new, correct, accurate picture of our fine Commodore.

COMMODORE'S REPORT

It was the special pleasure of the Board of Directors at the January meeting to elect George O. Loesel to the grade of Honorary Member.

George has been a member of the Erie Yacht Club since 1918 and has been enthusiastic in participation and promotion of boating and other club activities throughout the intervening fifty seven years. He owned and sailed the Yacht *Spray* for many of those years until about the time of World War II.

The Loesel family is a boating family. George's son Rich is a Past Commodore of the club and skippers the Yacht *Enigma*. His other son, Gib, is very active in club affairs and has been traditionally teamed with Chester Curridan and Jim McKnight in the preparation of the Tom and Jerrys at the New Year's Day Officers' Reception. Daughter Cynthia, now Mrs. Jim Taylor is a mainstay of the Junior Sailing program.

In 1929, George succeeded Walter Reitzell, one of the club founders, as Secretary-Treasurer, and held that position throughout the difficult times of the great depression and World War II until 1949.

In recounting those times, George recalled that in 1929, the membership was about 350 and that a \$50,000 bond issue

and a \$20,000 bank loan were both overdue. In the next few years, as the depression worsened, the membership dwindled through resignations and expulsions until by 1932 there were only 65 members; and at the annual meeting in October of that year only 12 of those members were present. The boiler had broken down with no funds available for repair, and the meeting was held with the members huddled around the fireplace on the second floor of the old clubhouse.

There was little business to be transacted and no one wanted to be nominated for Officer or Director for the following year; however Commodore Van Cleve and the other officers and Directors agreed to serve for another term.

That was a pretty bleak time in the history of the club, but with the work and determination of George and those other men who had faith in our club and the future of boating things gradually improved until it grew into the fine facility we have today.



RICHARD J. GORNEY
VICE COMMODORE

Damage to the Erie Yacht Club Docks was minimal this past winter season. Marty's and Miller's crews will start installing a new Finger Dock south from the north Breakwall. We hope to accommodate approximately twenty additional yachts in this area. The Dock assignment chart will be posted April 1, 1975.

With the increase in membership, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify all of the boats on the club property. Consequently, each and every boat including Ice Boats stored in the basement and Dinghies not on owner's Yachts will require a numbered sticker affixed to them.

All new wiring on the Docks will conform to the specifications approved last Fall. See Ken Welsh for copies of same and purchase of necessary wiring materials.



FLEET CAPTAIN
DICK WALLER

FLEET CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

Well, it looks as though the Joe Bftsplk of the Yacht Club has done it again. In the last issue of the *Log* I commented that I hoped the iceboaters would have a better winter this year than last. As it turned out, however, this year was worse, if anything. All I can say is -- Sorry, Fellas. Next year I promise to keep quiet and not put the hex on you again.

Those of you who have journeyed down to the Club recently have noted the new card head for the exit gate. This head is not in operation yet, there being some electrical work still to be completed, however the following explanation of its intended use may answer some of your questions.

Once operational, the "card-out" head will always be useable for opening the exit gate (assuming, of course, that it is not broken). In addition there will be a push-button, similar to the one now in use, which can be activated at appropriate times by means of a key switch. When the pushbutton is "on" it will operate the exit gate as in the past; when it is "off" only a gate card will work.

It is the present intention that the pushbutton be "on" during weekends in the summer (at least during the daytime), during race days, parties, meetings and other occasions when heavy traffic is anticipated. Your directors hope that this approach will provide improved security (something which is important to all of us) with a minimum amount of inconvenience to all.

One last word of encouragement. In spite of what the weather may look like, remember it's March already -- Spring really is coming. It's not too soon to be discussing your launching schedule with Marty.



After loudly proclaiming for nine years that I would never be The *Log* editor -- guess what? Here I am, the *Log* editor! I think our Commodore is missing his calling as a salesman.

Having now assumed this responsibility I first want to thank both Bob Heinrich, the previous editor, and Frank Moore who headed up this publication before Bob, for their offers of help and suggestions. I hope I can do as fine a job this year as they have in the past few with our club newsletter. Dick Sarver has agreed to serve as Associate Editor, which helps to share the burden considerably. Dorothy and Frank Knauer will be writing a column of newsy tidbits in future issues and I extend my thanks to them for their help, as I also do to George Sipple who will continue to provide us with interesting stories and pictures out of our Club's past.

The biggest headache for any editor is getting people to submit copy on time, so may I please appeal to all officers, committee chairpersons and any who will be writing articles for The *Log* to kindly observe the deadlines as they are announced.

It is my intention to have the newsletter in the hands of our members as close as possible to the 15th of March, May, July, September and November. I will announce the deadline date for the next issue of each *Log* as it is published and will post a notice of the deadline date on the Club bulletin boards. Copy for the next issue must be given to Dick Sarver or me by Sunday, April 27. Suggestions, comments and copy are always welcome.

Dick Swanson, Editor

E. Y. C. LADIES PLAN SPRING TEA

Although there is a blanket of snow on the ground, and a sheet of ice on the bay, the ladies auxiliary has been thinking SPRING! This year the Spring Tea will be held Tuesday, May 6, at 1:00 P. M. "Carousel of Flowers" is the theme chosen by the decoration chairman. Fashions will be shown by Four Seasons Boutique with Elaine Schwab acting as commentator. Music will be provided by Mrs. Dale Kalenbach.

Marilyn Amthor, auxiliary president will serve as general chairman. Assisting in the various planning phases for the tea are the following: Olga Gorney, tea tables; Fran Schuler and Dorothy Shank, fashion show; Betty Waller and Flora Sarver, decorations; Marnie Preston and Jean Baumann, reservations; Marj Behr and Jean Ginader, awards; Marilyn Reno and Barbara Althof, table arrangements; Carol Schultz, security; Tania Hanlin, publicity.

Tea aides for the afternoon will be Ellie Matts, Flora Sarver, Helen Fuhrman, Guthrie Pratt, Colleen Schaefer, Agnes Robertson, Helen Heinlein, Thelma Henshaw, Mary Kennedy, and Eleanor Conaway.

Modeling the spring fashions will be: Carol Jean Bates, Pauline Jageman, Dee Bressler, Carolee Goetz, Jean Peterson, Hy Bauman, Jan Cook, Anne Lodge, Peggy Schwab and Joyce Schuler.

As traditionally done in the past a drawing will be held for \$25.00 gift certificates.

OUT OF THE PAST

It was a snowy evening in January 1940 when Bell Captain Emerald A. Godmaire of the Lawrence Hotel called me, Manager of the Lawrence Garage Annex (corner of 10th and Peach now the Hertz Garage) to send over to pick up a car to store for the night. I instructed one of my men, a colored man named "Topsy" to go and pick it up. After about ten minutes, I received a call on our direct line from "Topsy" who said, "Man I can't drive this car, you had better come over." When I arrived at the marquee I found a new 1940 Chrysler Club Coupe parked there, when I opened the door to get in I found no front seat and a two foot extension on the steering column leading me to believe whoever drove this car sat on the rear seat. By me steering and "Topsy" working the pedals we managed to drive it back to the garage.

Early the next morning I went to the garage to help take this car to the hotel and to see what manner of man drove it, after waiting a short while a Tom McAn Shoe representative Robert Wadlow, 8 feet 11.1 inches tall and 22 years old appeared, towering over all other people and cars. It was a great joke for him to see how we could drive his car. We were not the only ones with problems, the Lawrence Hotel had to put beds together and let him sleep sideways across them.



ROBERT WADLOW
Tallest Man, at age 22, 8 feet
11.1 inches tall, 439 pounds.

Modern opinion is that the tallest recorded man of whom there is irrefutable evidence was Robert Pershing Wadlow; born in Alton, Illinois on February 22, 1918 weighing 8½ pounds at birth. Dr. C. M. Charles, Associated Professor of Anatomy at Washington University School of Medicine, in St. Louis, measured him at 8 feet 11.1 inches on June 27, 1940. He died 18 days later, on July 15, 1940 in Manistee, Michigan, as a result of cellulites of the feet aggravated by a poorly fitted brace, and he was still growing.

He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery Alton, Illinois in a coffin measuring 10 feet 9 inches in length, 32 inches in width and 30 inches in depth.

His greatest recorded weight was 491 pounds on his 21st birthday. He weighed 439 pounds at 22 just before his death. His shoes were size 37AA (18½ inches long) and his hands measured 12¾ inches from the wrist to the tip of the middle finger. Quite a man.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Ahoy! E. Y. C. Members! It is my pleasure to report to you on behalf of the Entertainment Committee.

If you come to the Club Friday nights you will enjoy the music and dancing in our redesigned lounge area. Our pretty girl singer, Mary Ann Santi, and her pianist Joe Presogna, will sing and play your requests. The candlelight atmosphere in the lounge is just great.

Also keep in mind that our Galley serves its usual fine food on Friday nights and usually features a couple of seafood specials.

E. Y. C. is a fun place to be on Friday evenings.

Party Chairmen Roy and Rosemary Martine have put together a fine St. Patrick's Party which will be recent history by the time you read this, but I hope you didn't miss it.

Our next monthly calendar will be mailed soon. Please keep it in a handy place and refer to it often.

An April party being planned will feature another "Country" to be presented. We are "taking on" many countries this year:

- St. Pat's Day - Ireland (what else)!
- The Luau - Polynesian Islands
- Venetian Night - Italy
- The Ocktoberfest - Germany
- Casino Night - U. S. A. in Roaring 20's

So it's only right that April is in Paris-- so this party will feature "France". This party will be chaired by a committee of E. Y. C. ladies. The menu will be French and I even hear rumors of a Can-Can line-- a la Moulin Rouge. Red wine and French perfume sounds promising. Sei le vie, mon amours!

Before closing I want to include one special word of praise and encouragement to Durk Braggins for his original and very successful "Mini-Parties". If you are missing these, you are missing a lot!

Sylvia Burdick's publicity for these parties has been outstanding.

We want to entertain you, and without you it's in vain, See you at the Club!!

Robert Heinrich
Entertainment Chairman

AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP

As you are going through the lobby at the club, take a minute to browse at our gift shop. The gift shop is run solely by the ladies auxiliary and is there for your convenience. We carry very nice practical and gift giving nautical merchandise with new stock arriving soon. Remember your purchase at the gift shop will benefit you and your club. This year the auxiliary has made a substantial contribution toward the purchase of folding chairs for use at Erie Yacht Club social functions. The chairs are upholstered in Bronze Gold wool and nylon. We hope you will be pleased with the selection. Helen Good, Chairman, Mary Kennedy and Adeline Clark served on the committee.

Purchases at the gift shop may be made through Marj Behr, Betty Waller, Marilyn Amthor or the office.



The remodeling of our Board Room is going to feature a wall montage of photos of member's boats. All members who would like to have a picture of their vessel included in this collection are asked to please submit a framed, color photo of their boat to Fran Schuler before May 1, 1975.

This can be a very attractive display if many of us help. Your photograph can be just loaned to the club or given outright. Any reasonable size is acceptable, but please, only framed, color pictures. If you would like your boat included call or see Fran Schuler at 833-1659.



LADIES AUXILIARY LUNCHEON

Come have lunch with us! It's a great way to spend the afternoon with your Erie Yacht Club friends and guests. Judging by our tremendous attendance it's the "IN PLACE" to be.

This month the ladies enjoyed an Old Fashion St. Patty's day lunch prepared by Chef Buzz. Mr. Larie Pinte, managing editor of the Morning News was our guest speaker. Mr. Pinte gave the ladies an insight to news editing in his talk entitled, "Exposure to Newspaper Journalism."

Our next luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 2nd. Our guest speaker will be Eleanor Friedlander, owner of Tainui Crafts and Collectables, who will demonstrate dried flower arranging with hot glue. She also plans to show us some nautical crafts we can make to dress up our boats.

If you are not on our calling list, you may make a reservation by calling Olga Gorny, Fran Schuler or Marilyn Amthor.



Charlotte and Bob Heinrich, entertainment committee chairmen, the brains behind all our festive activities.



Durk Braggins, Admiral Curtze and Commodore Richard Amthor looking at charts of Atlantic crossing of *Thule* at March 4 Mini-Party.



Rosemary and Roy Martine, Chairmen of St. Pat's Party, will be serving "green beer" at that event.



Over 140 persons attended the March 4 Mini-Party at which Admiral Curtze presented a talk and slides of the construction of *Thule* and his crossing of the Atlantic to bring her to Erie. Above, scenes from this festive evening.

MINI-PARTIES

The Entertainment Committee this year has created a new type of activity called a "Mini-Party". They are held every other Tuesday evening and will feature talks with colored slides or movies. The talks will be about yachting events both local and national. They will be presented by members and guest speakers. After each presentation there will be a Social Hour for renewing old acquaintances and for informal discussion with the speakers. Special refreshments will be served at each event.

The announcement of the subject for each of these mini-parties will be made through *The Log*, the Monthly Calendar of Events, Posters in the Clubhouse and through our local newspapers.

There will be an advance sale of tickets at the bar to help the committee plan the amount of refreshments needed.

The programs scheduled for the near future include: Tuesday, March 18 -- Peg and Bob Ways Southern Ocean Cruise on *Masker* 1973-74, narrated by Peg Way, featuring colored slides. The social hour to follow will include Rum Punch, Pineapple chunks and cheese.

Tuesday, April 1 -- a sound film of the

America's Cup 1974, featuring the final races between *Courageous* and *Southern Cross*, presented by Sail Yard and M.O.R.C. Sailing Fleet. Beer, pretzels and cheese will be served after the film.

Looking further ahead, some future mini-parties will include a presentation by the Al Bowens on their one-year cruise on the *Wanderlust* from Erie to the Caribbean and back; Al Mastic with a slide presentation of Inter Lake Yachting Events including racing at Put-In-Bay; Ralph Heard discussing engine maintenance, plus a film on High Performance Speed Boat Racing off shore; and hopefully a film feature on the voyages of the *Brigantine Yankee* with Mr. Irving Johnson present to discuss his trips in person. Mr. Johnson's marvelous voyages have been featured in National Geographic and other publications.

The date and time for these forthcoming events will be announced later as the programs are firmly scheduled. These mini-parties are planned for your pleasure and we hope you will come down and enjoy them. The committee would appreciate any suggestions or help you can give.

Durk Braggins, Chairman



SPRING

If you would know when spring has arrived, don't count merely on the arrival of the first Robin or the first Crocus peeping through the snow. For yachtsmen, the time comes on that day when you come around the last bend in the road down the hill and reach the club and just know that something is different. The sun is warm and sparkles on the widening patches of water where the ice is moving out. Boats, wrapped in their protective cocoons throughout the icy time begin to blossom out as those tarps are removed, and the sound of the sander is heard in the land.

The soft breeze, still cool but no longer chill, surrounds you with the clean aroma of turpentine and paint, once blended with the pungent smells of oakum and creosote and manilla rope but now mingled with the acrid tang of plastic resins. Motors belch blue smoke and stutter to a roar, then fade away, and wire halyards chatter against aluminum spars, impatient to be active again after the long winter's hibernation. These are the signs of spring for yachtsmen and are more certain than the dates on any calendar.

Dick Amthor



DEIKE'S CRUISE THE MISSISSIPPI

Past Commodore George H. Deike, Jr. and his wife, along with another couple recently had a five day trip down the Mississippi River from St. Louis to New Orleans on the brand new Union Mechling towboat *Sarah Elizabeth*. In addition to having a wonderful trip, George Deike equipped himself with all the navigational charts of the Mississippi and actually charted the course of the *Sarah Elizabeth* for most of the cruise. This new vessel is something of a *Queen Elizabeth* of the in-

land waterways and the staterooms and accommodations aboard are reputed to be very comfortable.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE OF THE LOG INCLUDE:

Commodore Richard Amthor
Vice Commodore Richard Gorny
Fleet Captain Richard Waller
Mrs. Fran Schuler
Robert Heinrich
Durk Braggins
George Sipple
Mrs. Marilyn Amthor

1975 ERIE YACHT CLUB DIRECTORY

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

COMMODORE - Richard Amthor (Supervision All Areas)	866-2392	
VICE COMMODORE - Richard Gorny (Dock Assignment, Maint.)	864-2100	
REAR COMMODORE - David Schuler (House, Bar, Galley)	833-1659	
FLEET CAPTAIN - Dick Waller (Roads, Grounds, Security)	455-4332	
GENERAL MANAGER - Kenneth Welsh (Active Management All Areas)	453-4931	
SEC'Y - TREAS. - G. William Ambro (Records, Finances)	455-8501	
DIRECTORS		
Wendell Good	Hal Reno	Ralph Heard
Bill Behr	George Sipple	Fritz Busse
John V. Schultz	Dave Preston	

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

MEMBERSHIP - Fritz Busse, P.C.	474-3781
ENTERTAINMENT - Robert and Charlotte Heinrich	899-8417
PUBLICITY - Gary and Tania Hanlin	459-9387
HISTORIAN - George Sipple	455-1674 & 833-4022

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Log is the official publication of the Erie Yacht Club, and is for private distribution. Publication is scheduled for the fifteenth of March, May, July, September, November, and January. Articles of interest and notices of events are welcome; however, material should be submitted in writing to avoid error. Publication is at option of the editor, and right to rewrite for brevity and clarity is reserved. Copy should be mailed on or before the twenty-fifth of the month preceeding publication date. Address to Editor, Richard A. Swanson, 3953 West 12th Street, Erie, Pa. Phone 838-7455.

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