Houston Yacht Club

BY POKIE STAMPER

Houston Yacht Club is in its eighty-ninth year this year and is the oldest yacht club in Texas and ranks among the oldest in the southwest. The club's beginning was in 1873 and it was formally organized in the offices of Dr. W. B. Griffin in 1898. Several years ago Past Commodore Steve Brown researched the club's history through the Houston Library and made it evident that none of these clubs were organized until records of the Houston Yacht Club were established.

The first commodore of the Houston Yacht Club was Dan E. Kennedy and the club was located on the Galveston Bayou opposite Brady Island on Elm and Lavaca in Harrisburg. The other clubs came into being in the early 1900s and were merged with each other before joining with the Houston Yacht Club about 1927. Prior to building the present clubhouse in Shore Acres, between 1928 to 1931, the club met in Seabrook.

Probably the earliest one design class on the Bay was the Fish Boats purchased from Canada and Mexico. There are a number of classes which race regularly from board boats to cruising designs. There are a number of classes which race regularly from board boats to cruising designs. The two annual regattas, Mid-Winter in February and Summer in August, each usually attract from 150 to 200 entrants from all over Texas plus many from out of state, including Canada and Mexico.

The club's facilities include the newly refurbished Port-hole bar, a quick service hamburger and ice cream center, deep room and dressing rooms and lockers downstairs next to the pool. The second floor houses the banquet and ballroom, expanded kitchen and bar and dining room overlooking the Bay where one of the finest views of any can be enjoyed. The third floor are 30 guest rooms plus an executive suite which is next to undergo remodeling and refurnishing. Mickey Don Boykin joined the club this year as manager and is also airport manager.

The Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association came into being a couple of years ago by the efforts of group of Houston Yacht Club members. The organization has been and is instrumental in keeping Galveston Bay clear of obstructions from dredging and preserving the area as recreational.

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One of the largest and most successful [bar] of the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Christmas party in addition to on-the-water parties and trips to museums and herb farms. Mrs. E. C. (Mary) Taber is president of the association which also lists among its activities the decorating of the club for Christmas and other special occasions.

The Houston Yacht Club has been undergoing an extensive remodeling and renovation program during the past two years according to Commodore Bob Meldon. In addition to painting, carpeting and remodeling some of the areas, the kitchen has been equipped for larger parties including adding a new charcoal grill which can serve a large number of steaks at one time. A big new machine was added to the bar which served frozen Margaritas for the first time to the Galveston Bay Cruising Assn. Veracruz style show party.

The outside of the club was painted a sand or adobe color, and alas, can no longer be dubbed the "Pink Palace." The harbor has been undergoing renovation and expansion with many of the piers raised and slips increased by more than 40 with the most recent increase of 28 for larger boats of 40 feet or more. Capt. O. C. Davis is the harbormaster at the club and has 14 years of service there. He looks over the 200 wet stor-

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Galveston

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