90 YEARS OF YACHTING

Houston Yacht Club celebrates its seafaring heritage

For its 90th anniversary, Houston Yacht Club’s amber exterior will be repainted to the coral color that earned its nickname, “the pink palace.” HYC Commodore Marc Lamkin, left, with wife Judy, and the fleet historian, Tynes Sparks, right, with wife Sissy are pictured near the pool and terrace added in a 1950s remodeling.

By KATHLEEN MYLER
Houston Chronicle

MEMBERS TAKE it almost as an article of faith that it’s really its 90th birthday the Houston Yacht Club celebrates this weekend. Like an elegant grand dame, the club’s a little hazy on the details of its earliest days.

Some say she was first named the Houston Aquatics Club, with meetings held at the old Rice Oyster House on Main Street. But the club historian, Tynes Sparks, pegs the venerable institution’s creation at 1897, with formal organization of the club a year later under the commodore, Dan E. Kennedy. According to research by Sparks’ fellow former commodore, Steve Brown, the event took place in the offices of a Dr. W.B. Griffin and members kept their boats on Buffalo Bayou.

Whatever her origins (if gender can be attached to organizations), the club married rich, yet managed to keep her name, then retired to a pink palace that remains perhaps the most romantic landmark on Galveston Bay.

HYC members, who have included some of the bes...
Yacht club marks its anniversary, plans to repaint palace

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