Advancing the
Social • Sports • Civic
Activities of Our Port
PROSPECTUS

of Houston Launch Club.

This project has been Sponsored and Endorsed by the following citizens of Houston.

JOHN S. Bonner, Chairman

JOHN T. Scott  R. S. Sterling
JUDGE SAM STREETMAN  C. G. PILLOT
J. R. Cheek  GEORGE HAMMAN
George F. Howard  Mike Hogg
E. L. Crain  O. H. Carlisle
CHARLES H. KUHLMAN  L. L. Fleming, Jr.
K. E. WOMACK  M. R. Wadell
W. L. CLAYTON  Max Taub
J. W. Neal  C. A. Dwyer
E. A. PEDEN  CAPT. CHARLES CROTTY

W. S. COCHRAN

BUILDING COMMITTEE

D. F. BeamAN, Chairman
E. L. CrAIN  W. F. EBLEN
E. P. SIMONS  W. E. HUMPHREVILLE, JR.
L. A. LAYNE

TRUSTEE

H. B. Finch

Vice-President Union National Bank
**Officers and Directors**

**HOUSTON LAUNCH CLUB**

**OFFICERS**

J. W. Weatherford - Commodore
D. F. Beaman - Vice-Commodore
C. Ray Davis - Fleet Captain
J. Collier Hurley - Secretary
George Hamman - Treasurer
W. E. Humphreille, Jr. - Measurer
Bishop H. D. Aves - Chaplain
Dr. E. L. Fox - Fleet Surgeon

**DIRECTORS**

JUDGE SAM STREETMAN
C. G. Pillot
W. E. HAMILTON, JR. D. F. BEAMAN
C. RAY DAVIS J. W. WEATHERFORD
W. E. HUMPHREVILLE, SR.

**HOUSTON YACHT CLUB**

**OFFICERS**

O. H. CARLISLE - Commodore
HENRY FALK - Vice-Commodore
CLARENCE S. HAMILTON - Secretary and Treasurer
BISHOP H. D. AVES - Chaplain

**DIRECTORS**

W. E. HAMILTON JIM BOURLAND
W. A. DALEY W. E. HUMPHREVILLE, JR.
C. W. WOLKARTE

**Foreword**

BEFORE Houston became known as a port, a few pioneers interested in water sports organized the Houston Launch Club. Later, others formed another organization known as the Houston Yacht Club.

Houston has outgrown these two pioneer organizations, and there exists a great need for a more broad and all-around organization devoted more specifically to the social and civic activities of our people.

A number of Houston men are, therefore, sponsoring a club which will be in keeping with the best traditions of Houston and truly representative of both its land and water sports life.

Construction of a magnificent and commodious club home will soon be under way on the shores of Galveston Bay. Incorporated in the substantial improvements will be a pier, wharf, breakwater and yacht basin.

Although bearing a name that smacks of the sea, water sports are but a tithe of the pleasures and advantages to be derived from membership in the Houston Launch Club. There are a number of features of the Houston Club which make it more of an all-around Club than any other of its kind in the country; and, for that matter, makes it distinctive among all Houston clubs.

An auspicious beginning has been made as you will learn from the following pages.
Among the many pleasures afforded members of the Houston Launch Club is the privilege of the beautiful Shoreacres Golf Course. Nature could not have contributed more to the arrangement of this course. There are many clumps of majestic old oaks under whose friendly shade many a golfer may steal a moment's rest while being fanned by the cooling and refreshing sea breezes.

How many yacht clubs, we wonder, can offer such a pleasing combination of a yacht and country club, all in one: Not any, we venture.

Many Tennis Courts

In addition to the tennis courts on the club house grounds, the members have the privilege of the Shoreacres courts.

An All-Around, All-Sports and Pleasure Club

Shoreacres Golf Course

Miss Houston IV owned by Frank Robertson and Henry Falk, piloted by the former, winning the Mississippi Valley Power Boat Association regatta for the 510 class over a ten-mile course setting a new mark of 13 minutes, 8-1/5 seconds. Second place was also secured by a boat flying the Houston Launch Club colors, Hornet II, owned by Doc Selman.

The Smuggler, owned by Ross Wright

Winning World's Record For 10 Miles
Distinctive Features and Plans

STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

The total assets of Houston Launch Club amount to $71,500.00, made up as follows:

(1) LAND ON WHICH CLUB IS TO BE BUILT—VALUE $45,000.00: The property on which the new Club is to be built, which is held under contract with Shoreacres, Inc., consists of two adjoining tracts,—one of two and one-half acres, the other of three and one-half acres. The two tracts together are conservatively valued at $45,000.00. This value is arrived at and based on actual sales made of all the remaining land in Shoreacres directly adjoining these tracts and of exactly the same character.

(2) OLD LAUNCH CLUB PROPERTIES—SOLD FOR $12,000.00 CASH: Houston Launch Club has already sold its Harrisburg properties for $12,000.00 cash.

(3) AN ADDITIONAL $5,000.00 CASH: The Houston Launch Club has collectible under contract and available for new construction an additional $5,000.00 in cash.

(4) CLUB OWNED BOATS—VALUE $2500.00: The Launch Club owns five one-design sail boats which are for the use of Club members and which are valued at $500.00 each, making a total of $2500.00.

(5) YACHT CLUB PROPERTIES—VALUE $7,000.00: The Yacht Club properties at Seabrook have now been placed on the market for sale and it is estimated that $7,000.00 in cash will be realized from these properties. This estimate is based upon an independent appraisal of disinterested parties.

The total assets are, therefore, $71,500.00, of which $24,000.00...
is now in cash or will be available in cash in ample time for our construction program, $45,000.00 is in real estate on which the Club will be built, and $2,500.00 is represented by Club owned boats.

Only one share of stock is being issued to each of the old members of the two Clubs, of which there are exactly 173. This means that there will be only $17,300.00 of stock at par value outstanding against $71,500.00 of tangible assets.

Seldom does any organization of this kind start by offering its members such a surplus in assets. It means that the actual value of the assets back of the stock is more than they pay for the stock. Quick fulfillment of all plans is presaged by this financial strength.

**A Yacht and Country Club Combined**

The club house and improvements will call for an investment of approximately $100,000.00. The plan submitted, which will probably be approved in most of its features, call for Spanish style of architecture throughout, with buff-tinted stucco walls, Spanish style roof, and art cloisters of the Spanish Mission type. Even the large screened-in porches are so skillfully arranged that they do not cause any variation in appearance from the Spanish motif. The building will set on a bluff against a picturesque background of towering pines.

There will be provided every feature and convenience offered in an aquatic and country club.

**Sleeping Quarters.** There will be a number of private bed rooms, for the use of members. In addition, two large sleeping halls, one each for men and women, are being provided for the accommodation of occasional large crowds of young people.

**Salon and Dining Room.** For the holding of social functions and where appetizing shore dinners will be served by a competent caterer, where one will be privileged to entertain small parties, invite guests and out-of-town friends and business associates for a Gulf Coast Shore dinner.

The club house will be provided with electric power, artesian running water, shower baths and sewerage.
Automobile Storage is also being provided.

Individual Lockers. For the storing of one's golf, yachting and street clothes.

A Sail Room. For the safe-keeping of sails, awnings and other yachting paraphernalia, will afford protection to the members' property.

All in all, nothing is being overlooked to make the club house and its other facilities meet every need and wish of its members.

The Pier, Breakwater and Basin

The pier will be a substantial one extending 2300 feet out into the Bay. At the end of the pier will be a 500-foot semi-U shaped breakwater. The location and shape of this is in accordance with the plans worked out by engineers who have taken into consideration the prevailing southeasterly breezes and the general squalls from the northeast. This breakwater is to afford perfect protection in the Basin behind the Breakwater for yachts belonging to members, some of which are among the most beautiful on the Gulf Coast.

Historically Speaking

Houston, once an inland city, is now "Port Houston." A continuous stream of ocean liners ply their way to Houston from the ports of the world carrying cargoes of every kind, and from Houston return with cargoes of cotton, grain, oil and other products of Texas and neighboring states.

To the Houston Launch and Yacht Clubs and their members is due no small part in this development. It is only necessary to mention a few of the ways in which their influence has been felt.

Early and Unfaltering Faith in the Ship Channel

The small group of yachting pioneers who in 1908 organized and built the Club had faith in the possibilities of Buffalo Bayou as a ship channel, long before others even dreamed of it. They put their heart and soul into the undertaking, and remained confident of its outcome, even in the early days when skepticism was met on all sides.

Club Yachts the Eyes of the Developers of the Port

From that early beginning, whenever engineers, committees, congressmen, senators and others came to view the possibilities of the Channel as a port, it was upon the yachts of these clubs and its members that these delegates were transported up and down the Channel. A similar service is still being rendered to demonstrate what our port has become. It is by means of these yachts alone that many outsiders have the opportunity of seeing our Channel and port.

Service by Launch Club—Test of Hurricane Proved Absolute Permanence of Ship Channel

In 1915 the Channel, with its then depth of 25 feet, was in reality navigable by ocean steamers, but few vessels navigated it. An impetus was sorely needed. Before 1915 the serious fear lurked in the minds of many as to the effect of a severe tropical hurricane upon that part of the Channel where it crosses the Bay. The hurricane of 1915, which demolished the greater portion of the causeway at Galveston, furnished this impetus, and proved once and for all the absolute permanence of the Ship Channel. After the storm had spent its force, but before it had subsided, at the request of the city and port officials, a yacht of the Houston Launch Club, pitching and rolling, with the seas
breaking over its bow, plowed its way slowly across the Bay into Galveston harbor. It was the second boat to reach Galveston. From its taffrail fell, at regular intervals, the lead line, accurately recording the depth of the Channel. The Channel had not been materially affected! Many ships in Galveston, where cargoes could not be made available, came to Houston to be loaded. That needed impetus had been furnished.

**ADVERTISING THE PORT**

Aside from the inestimable value of yachts as an advertising medium themselves (every yacht's stern bearing the insignia "of Houston" is a mobile signboard advertising Port Houston,) these two Houston Clubs have advertised our Port throughout the nation with their racing activities.

Last year, at Whitelake, Michigan, the Miss Houston IV broke the world's record for her class. Every yachting magazine in the country and many of the big eastern and midwestern dailies carried articles on her performance and featured the development of our Port. This year, at an expenditure of over $30,000 by individual members, four boats have been sent to Louisville, Kentucky, where the big national speed boat regatta of the year is to be held July 4th and 5th. They will bear the insignia of the Houston Yacht Club.

Through competition for the famous $5000 Sir Thomas Lipton trophy, the sailors of the Houston Launch Club have won names and widely advertised the fact that Houston is a seaport city.

**CONSOLIDATION**

The Houston Yacht and Launch Clubs have now combined. The necessary votes of members and resolutions of boards of directors have been obtained. All that remains to be done is the physical transfer of assets and the deliverance of stock in return.

---

**Pleasures to be Derived from Membership in the Houston Launch Club**

**Yachting on Galveston Bay**

Sailing for pleasure brings many a lover of the sea to the Bay over week ends. Houston is developing a group of the most enthusiastic yachting sportsmen of the country. With the completion of the new Club, there is no doubt but that many more will take up this exhilarating sport. The splendid facilities provided by the Club for every size of yacht, both sail and power, for anchoring, embarkation, cruising, racing, etc., will accelerate the sport.

**For Members Who Do Not Own Boats**

There are available when not used for racing, five Fish Class boats. It is planned to build five more which the members will be privileged likewise to use.

**Gala Regatta Days**

Whether one is at the tiller of a graceful sailing yacht as she manoeuvres for the start and heads for the starting line "full and bye," timed to the fraction of a second, or whether one is at the wheel of a racing hydroplane as she skips and jumps over the water at a mile a minute clip, there is nothing else which can equal the exhilaration and thrill of either; and there is no occasion more resplendent with color than the mere sight of the...
many beautiful yachts with their colorful flags, the white sails of the trim and graceful sailing yachts and the flying spray of the racing hydroplanes. Whether one is on a sailing yacht, on one of the spectator fleet, or one of the throng of spectators upon the wharf or shore, a regatta is an occasion to which there is no equal.

**Hunting and Fishing Trips**

With the club house as headquarters, fishing and hunting will be the recreation of another class of sportsmen, and women, too. There are red fish and trout a-plenty, and for those who are more venturesome, there are the tarpons which test a true fisherman's skill. Others can lazily fish from the pier and they will not go unrewarded. In season, the hunter will find the club house convenient to some of the best hunting grounds in this section of Texas. The baths and a cozy place to rest will be most welcome to the hunter after a hard day's sport.

**Bayshore Dinners**

For the entertainment of friends and business associates, there is nothing that could please them more than a real bayshore dinner at a modern club house by-the-sea, where cool sea breezes blow, and where there are diversions within the environs of the Club that appeal to all.

**Social Features**

The prestige and exclusiveness of the New York Yacht Club and the Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans betokens a like distinction for the Houston Launch Club, growing out of the social traditions that are now crystallizing in the Houston yachting fraternity. Memberships in these old original clubs are held beyond price. Because it is nurtured by the same traditions and guided by the same ideals, the place that the Houston Launch Club will hold in the social life of the nation will be such that a membership in it will be prized as a rich legacy to be handed down to future generations.

**Affiliation with Other Yachting Clubs**

Yachtmen the world over are wonderful hosts. The Houston Launch Club is affiliated with more than a hundred other clubs. A member of the Houston Launch Club will be the recipient of real genuine hospitality whenever he visits the yacht clubs of any city where there is a yacht club affiliated with some yachting association.
Safe-Guarding the Membership

The officers of the Houston Launch Club are using much care in electing members. Those invited are regarded as being men who will truly represent the spirit of genuine hospitality and friendship that has grown up about the recognized yachting clubs.

Membership Fees

The membership fees are: Initiation fee, $25.00; Dues, $36.00 per year, payable semi-annually. In addition, each member is required to hold at least one share of stock in the corporation.

Dues of new members will not begin until the last quarter of the year beginning October 1st. The application should, therefore, be accompanied by a check for the stock subscription of $100.00 and $25.00 initiation fee, making a total payment of $125.00.

Mr. H. B. Finch, Vice-President of the Union National Bank, is acting as Trustee for the funds paid in by new members on both stock and initiation fees. These funds will be held in trust by Mr. Finch until the total quota of memberships have been received.

The expenses incurred in the sale of stock, which expenses are unusually small, are being paid entirely from funds of the Houston Launch Club. None of these expenses will be paid from funds realized from new members.

Membership Rolls Will be Closed

Every indication points to the early filling up of the membership rolls. The membership committee and the Board of Trustees have approved more names than can be accepted for the original membership. This means closing the membership rolls as soon as the requisite number of shares have been subscribed. Applications coming in afterwards may be placed on the waiting list.