THEY TACKED TO TITLES
National junior sailing champs
Please tell me Bruce Cabot's birthplace and his name before he went to Hollywood. Did he originally come from Houston? - E.L.

Cabot's real name is Jacques de Bujac and he was born in Carlsbad, N.M. However, before the Depression he was an oil field roughneck in Texas and has many friends in Houston.

* * * *

Is it true that Broderick Crawford, now on television in "The Interns," was once a comedian? He doesn't seem the type. - R.P.D.

He was the type many years ago when he stogged for the Marx Brothers in their rowdy vaudeville act. Brod's father was a vaudevillian. His mother was the Broadway and movie comedienne, Helen Broderick. Turning to dramatic roles, he won an Oscar playing the thinly-veiled role of Huey Long in "All the King's Men."

* * * *

Why did Nancy Sinatra, in her second marriage, have a church wedding — something she didn't do when she married Tommy Sands? - T.L.

Nancy decided to sanctify her union with Hugh Lambert because, she says, "We're so sure it's right. For the first time my career will take second place in my life. I want to have babies."

* * * *

How does the retired film star Irene Dunne, now a grandmother, feel about today's youth? - Mrs. T.D.

"I'm tired of hearing youth criticized," she says. "If there is a generation gap, it's up to the older people to bridge it. The young have the right to make changes in the world because they are the ones who'll be around to live in it."

* * * *

I read that Ryan O'Neal now carries one of those oversized purses. I always thought he was strictly a he-man. Why the switch? - C.T.

The reason for the oversized purse is that his skin-tight pants are pochettish and his wife doesn't carry a purse. Consequently, she keeps tossing her things into his bag. Recently, much to his embarrassment, a friend opened the actor's purse, pulled out a bra and lipstick and grinned, "Hey, guys, look — what O'Neal carries around!"

* * * *

Is David Frost serious about Diahann Carroll? Will they wed? Does he date her in public or just in private? - C.M.

Frost makes no secret about his affection for Diahann. When she appeared at the Playboy-Plaza Hotel in Miami Beach recently, Frost flew down both weekends to thaw in her warmth and the sunshine. In the public dining room, they smooched like two teen-aged lovebirds. Miss Carroll wore a gift from David, a diamond-encrusted pin spelling out the word "love." Only time will tell whether they will wed or not.

* * * *

Is Eugene McCarthy sorry he gave up the Senate seat which Hubert Humphrey now occupies? - M.P.L.

Not according to these thoughts that the ex-senator expressed: "When somebody runs for president and comes back to the Senate, he's not treated the same. He's rejected. The way it was when Lazarus came back from the dead. They won't deal him in on a card game — they think he might have learned something on the other side."

* * * *

I'm curious about Lew Alcindor's height, reported as being anywhere from 7-1 to 7-6. Exactly what is it and is he taller than Wilt Chamberlain and that new million-dollar bonus baby from Jacksonville? - S.E.

Alcindor is 7 feet, 1% inches. Wilt the Stilt is 7 feet, 1-1/16. And Artis Gilmore (the ABA Kentucky Colonels' rookie) is 7 feet 2. (Tallest basketball player on record is said to be Vasiliy Ankoyev, a 36-year-old Russian, who stands 7-feet-7.)

* * * *

Why does Katharine Hepburn keep her birthdate a secret? Is it true she plans to retire from the theatre and step into politics via a Nixon appointment? - C.H.

A White House spokesman says, "I'm sure you'll understand that it wouldn't be appropriate to comment on any speculation regarding appointments." Miss Hepburn was born in West Hartford, Conn., Nov. 8, 1907.

* * * *

The movie that Elizabeth Taylor and Michael Caine are filming in London I've read they play man and wife. Is it a tender love story and are there any nude scenes? - E.R.

Though it has the expected quota of bedroom scenes, "Ten & Co." has no nude scenes. "I've never been in the nude on the screen," Caine says, "because I don't believe I have anything that anyone would be interested in seeing. I don't want to go to the cinema to see a girl prancing around if I can't even say, 'What's your phone number?'" Supposedly the film has some of the most rough-and-tumble brawls ever seen on a screen between a man and a woman so it's hard to say how tender the love-story line is. "I really slap her around," Caine comments, "and she hits me back so hard it makes my eyes water."

* * * *

Is William Hopper, who played Paul Drake in "Perry Mason," alive? And was he columnist Hedda Hopper's husband? - J.J.

William Hopper, who was Hedda Hopper's son, died last year.
WINNING WAS A BREEZE

Above: When two champs get together, who's to take the tiller? Sailing aboard a Soling, Danny Williams, left, skippers while John Kolius makes a refinement in the jib setting. Facing page: Timing and technique are vital in championship sailing, as the two sailors demonstrate in the Houston Yacht Club's Midwinter Regatta. Top left: Kolius' boat, right, flashes out its spinnaker only seconds after rounding the windward mark. A speedy team effort can put a boat well out in front. Top right: Williams' yellow Soling, on the privileged starboard tack, thrusts through the pock on the way to the windward mark. Below: The national champs mix it up with the Houston Yacht Club's Soling fleet.

By Ann Holmes
Houston Chronicle Staff

Sail, sail and sail some more! Get that boat out there and work with your crew! Get to know your boat and everything she'll take!

These have been the courses to national sailing championships for two young Houston sailors, who last year and two years before won separately the most coveted prize for America's junior skippers, the Sears Cup.

The tanned sailors with sea-blue eyes and a magic touch on the tiller are John Kolius, 19, of 11 W. Shady Lane, who won the Sears Cup at the finals in San Francisco in 1968, and Danny Williams, 17, of 154 Stoney Creek, who crossed the finish line first at Grosse Pointe, Mich., in 1970.

Both boys learned their wizardry with the wind and waves on Galveston Bay and both sail Solings, 27-foot racing craft, from the Houston Yacht Club.

The impressive wins of both Kolius and Williams might have surprised Eastern yachtsmen, who for years dominated this sport just as the Cadwalladers spoke only to God, the Morgans

Continued
Champs—continued

bought yachts without peering at the price tag), but John Dane of the Southern Yacht Club of New Orleans first gave notice that the South was developing fine yachtsmen with his Sears victory in 1967.

Kolius, then sailing under the Galveston Bay Cruising Assn. banner, followed him with Danny Williams and Jay Williams as his crew. Two years later, Danny took the helm himself and sped to the finish for the honor of the Old South again.

As new crews of youngsters are this very day hiking hard to windward and keeping their boats footing as they prep for this year’s Sears competition, sailors in the know all over America may well be wondering what is it about Galveston Bay or the yacht club or the Houston youngsters themselves that they have so niftily outsailed all the other young sailors of America twice in the Sears eliminations.

Both boys admit they had a great starting advantage — their fathers owned boats on which they could learn sailing very early. Both crewed offshore for their fathers and as mere striplings did the front-of-the-boat chores, raising the jib, hoisting the spinnaker, jibing the spinnaker — no small feat for big or little sailors — and tailing the genoa sails when the boat came about to a new tack.

Both had advantage, too, of free summers — and time, time, time to get the feel of a boat, to see what happens when you ease the sheets or haul them in close, to find the point at which it’s safe and fast to run her heeled over, rail down.

The fortunate circumstance of long sailing seasons — not available to their fellow sailors up North — helped them out, too, in providing still more time on the water.

But it was probably Kolius’ string of early wins in a Sunfish when he was 14, racing with Houston Yacht Club’s Ragnos in the junior program, that gave him the compulsion to move to bigger boats — and keep winning.

On the other hand, Williams might not have won the Sears Cup at all or even gone out for the competition if his motorcycle hadn’t been stolen.

Above: Kolius prepares for a turn on Galveston Bay.
Bubble gum was good luck

For years he and his attorney father, Kelly D. Williams, and his mother, Marianne, and his brothers and sisters and his cousins had sailed on a variety of boats, some belonging to his uncle, Howard Williams. Danny had won the Houston Yacht Club's Midsummer Regatta Sunfish division in a borrowed boat when he was 13.

"That was a happy taste of victory for me," he admits.

Danny began crewing for Kolius in 1966, when John came in third in the Sears Texas eliminations. The next year Kolius won the Texas sailoff and went to Birmingham where he bowed to New Orleans' Dane.

In 1968, John, Danny and Jay were cool as a corps de ballet. They worked together perfectly and moved out to take on all comers.

After sailing 17-foot Thistles in 1968, they moved up to Rhodes 19s and neatly captured the first position at Fair Hope, Ala., and went on to San Francisco for the finals.

"The first day the wind blew hard," Kolius recalls. "Twenty-five to 30 miles per hour. We came in fourth in one race. The next day we hit the weather mark and were pretty discouraged. Dad (Gus Kolius) coached us, but we were convinced the Sears was out of reach.

"But the next morning on the way to the race we stopped at a little store and picked up some lucky gum - Bazooka bubble gum. It was our good luck token."

They got a first, second and another first and were really rolling.

"Next morning we stopped and got some more gum; we were psyched up. And the first race of the last day we came in five minutes ahead of the next boat.

"In the last race we had to beat Marblehead and Santa Barbara (the sailors from those clubs). We had to have five starts and we used up all our gum. Then we got a good start and sat on Marblehead. We rounded the weather mark with Santa Barbara and went all the way down the leeward leg of the Olympic course side by side.

"Jay gave his rebel yell and we came in third - but we had put two boats between us and Marblehead and we beat Santa Barbara by two feet!"

The Sears Cup was John's.

Once you're past 17 you're over the hill as far as Sears participation is concerned and Kolius is crewed up now with Bill Hunt and Lawrence Daniels - two sons of other sailing families with long experience on Galveston Bay waters -- for the sailing Olympics in 1972.

Danny's happy time with Kolius gave him some momentum toward sailing his own boat, but in the fall of 1969 he bought a motorcycle.

"I lost all interest in sailing," Danny says.

"The family would go to our bayhouse and sail, but I just kept riding.

"From October to March I didn't sail and didn't miss it. Then one morning I went out to get on the motorcycle and it had been stolen."

There wasn't much else to do so Danny started going back to the Houston Yacht Club where he'd sailed with the Ragnots.

"They were having the club sailoff for the Sears and Ed McFarland, Clark Thompson and I raced against each other in Sunfish."

Danny came in first and the three boys decided...
to consolidate and make a team of it with Danny as skipper.

After winning the semifinals held at the Houston Yacht Club, they went on to Grosse Point Farms, near Detroit, for the finals and raced in Flying Scots, 19-foot sloops.

"We had met some other Scot sailors at Seabreeze Sailing Center on Galveston Bay, learned from them and entered everything we could find in Scots to gain experience," Danny recalls.

"There were eight finalists. You don't know at the beginning who you're racing against, how good they are or what they know. The fellow from the host club, for instance, we called Local Knowledge. We thought we'd better watch him; he'd know about wind conditions.

"By the next to the last day we were third and we kept moving up. For the last race, all we had to do to win the cup was finish, making sure not to foul out in any way.

"So we lingered behind the starting line, staying out of reach of all the other boats and started 50 seconds later. We decided to go inshore because the rest of the boats were moving off. We eased off our halyards' and prepared to rock along and stay out of trouble."

But that elusive wind that sailors seek - often in vain - capriciously visited them. They got a good breeze inshore, and though they stalled to let a second boat behind them pass, they just couldn't lose for winning.

The other boats began to emulate them and in time, with that breeze filling their spinnakers, they rounded the leeward mark - not last as they had planned, but first!

"We stayed ahead and came in first," Danny says with a grin that still flushes his face with joy.

Now a senior at Memorial High School, Williams hopes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy. He spends his off time sailing - just as Kolius does when not attending classes at the University of Houston.

Both agree that the secrets to sailing success are having good crews that work together and exhaustive practice.

"Get your own boat, crew with good sailors, talk tactics, try out any and every boat and work with the youth programs," Kolius suggests. "But whatever you do, sail."

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Sailing a future course

Top: At times the waters of Galveston Bay provide a peaceful setting for area sailing buffs. Above: But when the call is racing, the action increases. Here, Williams and crew hike as No. 64 streaks for the starting line.