SEASON’S OPENER—Enjoying the Houston Yacht Club’s season-opening celebration Thursday were, left to right, Judge W. P. Hamblen, Mrs Bill Parker, Mrs W. P. Hamblen and Capt Bill Parker.

SAN JACINTO DAY CEREMONIES

30-Year-Old Speedboat Wins Yacht Club Honors

A 30-year-old speedboat took top honors in the speedboat races held during opening day ceremonies at the Houston Yacht Club on San Jacinto Day. Charles M. Knipe, immediate past commodore of the club, drove his 1925 Chris Craft 24 foot runabout to an easy first place in the initial event of the day.

MR KNIFE was quite pleased over the performance which this venerable craft turned in, since he was competing with several boats of much later vintage. According to him, the boat was the first factory built speedboat purchased in Houston. It was originally owned by Milby Dow, who sold the boat to Mr Knipe.

The boat which is called the Bay Prince, has a long slender hull, typical of the designs in vogue 30 years ago. She is powered with a stock 158 Chris Craft engine.

As soon as the speedboat races were completed members of the yacht club began lining up for the boat parade, which commenced at the landing on San Jacinto Island and proceeded down the length of the bay. The members of the club were joined by many Boaters, both members and spectators, in sightseeing along Galveston Bay.

The members of the Sea Scout unit of the Houston Yacht Club formed a color guard for the ceremony. Skipper John Bennett and Mate W. F. Eubanks were in command of this unit.

The Rev. David McClure, rector of Saint John’s Episcopal Church in La Porte, blessed the fleet in his capacity as Fleet Chaplain. A fish fry served on the patio overlooking the yacht harbor concluded the first day of activities for the season.

Approximately 40 boats, both sail and power, paraded in the parade. Largest boat in the parade was the Maryland, owned by Parker Bros. She is a 104 foot auxiliary sail boat, Richard M. Sholad’s Sumeria—a 97 foot Consoliated diesel cruiser, the Vita, a 77 foot diesel yacht owned by Sterling Hogan, and many others, from a 10 foot outboard runabout up to the largest.

The 30-Year-Old Speedboat which is chartered by the Houston Yacht Club, formed a color guard for the ceremony. Skipper John Bennett and Mate W. F. Eubanks were in command of this unit.

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Additional events are planned for Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23. Sail boat races, a South of the Border dance on Saturday night, formal opening of the pool, and presentation of trophies to winners of various events during the three-day opening will complete the program.

Officers of the Houston Yacht Club include Commodore Charles M. Smythe, Vice Commodore J. Fred Haskett, Fleet Capt C. D. Blanchard, and directorms David Hagerman, Dean Osmun, and Max L. Anthony. These men, along with immediate past Commodore Charles M. Knipe and past Commodore Alf Pettit, are in charge of the ceremonies.