

PINE BEACH YACHT CLUB

Gleanings from Early minutes

The club archives contain no documents prior to minutes of a meeting beginning on October 29, 1925--nine years after the club was formed. The meeting was held in the home of Commodore C. G. Bauer, J., 628 South 54th Street in Philadelphia. The city was a frequent site for meetings in those days. Some were held in the Widner Library at Broad Street and Girard Avenue. Others were held at 1328 Chestnut Street presumably the office site of a member.

One L. Denny (who was the housekeeper/chaperone for the Hollenstein children who summered in the house across from the club) was the secretary until August, 1926. Miss Denny recorded that Mary B. Schuenemann was given a rising vote of thanks for making a success of the Tea Room. Miss Schuenemann used the authority given her to "act in all matters pertaining to the Tea Room" by spending \$54 for chairs and \$3.41 for decorations.

Another entry: Dr. Earl G. Rice was "thanked for donating \$100 for gravel for the front of the club." "Moved and seconded that the dirigible used in the (1925) 4th of July parade be repaired at club expense ¶

Much time was spent writing by-laws one of which was: associate membership shall be limited to ladies not less than 21 years of age who shall be either the mother, wife, unmarried sister or unmarried daughter of a member in good standing." "There shall be seven classes of membership: active, life, family, junior, honorary, associate, contributing and summer.:

J. H. Mergenthaler succeeded Miss Denny as secretary in 1927. John served as secretary until 1937, recording the elections and routine matters of meeting, many of which continued to be held in Philadelphia. The Ladies Auxiliary is frequently commended for its money-raising activities in Pine Beach and in Philadelphia.

Some of the highlights: (9/3/27) Mrs. Charles Christos, Sr., for the Ladies Auxiliary gave the club \$500. "The announcement was greeted with great applause as it cleared the club of all indebtedness.¶

Harry F. Hoffmann, for whom the upper hall is named, first appeared in the minutes in August, 1928, as trustee. Although Harry's leadership made substantial contributions to the club there are no records of his accomplishments

November, 1931: Dr. Rice suggested a dumb waiter be

installed from the kitchen to the upper floor. It was suggested that the Ladies Auxiliary "contemplate" its construction.

A Sun Oil Company proposal to install a gas pump and underground tank for auto and boat sales--at a cost of \$118--was approved.

Ravages of the great depression were reflected in a proposal that annual dues be halved to \$5.

Another proposal seriously considered was to sell the club house. A less draconian measure was the formation of two money-soliciting teams with the winning team being given a chicken dinner by the losers, who would dine on beans.

October,
1999: CaptainDunn proposed to open a restaurant in the club house, splitting profits 50-50.

In August, 1933, Admiral Farragut Academy offered to buy the club property that forms part of its athletic field for \$1,800. The club decided \$5,000 was the lowest price it would consider.

September, 1935 John Mergenthaler's graceful, left-handed Spencerian script succumbed to the typewriter; what the minutes gained in legibility they lost in beauty and old-world charm. Hard times persisted. Charles Wheeler suggested a house-to-house canvass--such as was done when the club was founded in 1916--be undertaken to gain new members.

June, 1936: Live dance orchestras were replaced by a record-playing system that cost all of \$157.50.

August, 1938: John Mergenthaler, after 11 years of secretarying, resigned. Harry Hoffmann moved that he be made a life member in recognition of his fine and faithful service. There is no record of the motion being seconded. F. J. Byrne was elected as John's replacement.

From the 1939 minutes: H. F. Hoffmann renominated Commodore H. C. Hutchinson who declined. Messrs. Meadowcroft, Hoffmann, Higginson and Coryell also declined, as did J.L. Hutchinso, Cosoneck, Rumpf and Bauer, Sr. Mr. Penteney was nominated, seconded and elected.

Also in 1939, Russ Whitman, Jack Higginson, Cecil Murphins and Herb. Scheer were appointed to make plans for a junior organization.

In 1941, because the secretary and treasurer was one person, he was voted a salary of \$10 per annum.

In 1940, a contract for construction of a dock to hold six boats was awarded to L. J. Hutchinson for \$1,482.

In 1942, minutes reflect World War II concerns: Mr. Waitz was appointed to look into the costs of bomb insurance. Mr. Zehnder got the store contract in exchange for a ten percent rebate.

In 1943, the club charged Admiral Faragutt Academy \$80 for its lot and discussed the possibility of the club acquiring Lincoln Avenue.

In 1955 Mr. Stokes reported it would cost the club \$600 to purchase Riparian rights. The meeting was cut short so the barn dance could start.

The question of hiring a steward, and control of children appears every year. In 1944 it was agreed that the steward be paid \$100 a month, and that he would, "take orders from the House Committee and no other club member.: His hours: 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to midnight weekends. He would received 25 percent of Canteen profits as a bonus.

In 1945, a formal proposal was submitted to the Borough Planning Board that the "present club building be razed and replaced with a long, spacious Colonial building...with space and facilities for all the needs of our several organizations. (The club house and dock were sinking in the sand and were in bad repair.)the Planning Board indicated a favorable reaction, but the proposal never again appeared in the minutes.

In 1946 Messrs, Hutchinson and Spoerl agreed to act as stewards in exchange for one-third of the profits of conducting dances and other activities.

In 1948 the clubhouse and dock were still sinking. Instead of renting the lot to the academy there was thought of selling it for \$7,000.

In 1949 Dolly Whitman reported a profit of \$70.42 from the movie program.

In 1952, dues were raised to \$25, but included two tickets to all functions.

In 1953, a suggestion that a trophy case be installed was taken up by Mr. H. Scott who received formal thanks for his contribution.

In 1954 the by-laws were again amended (apparently a perpetual process) with one reading, "Active members shall be defined to include the head of a household and all members of his family living with him..."

In 1957 the nominating committee could find no one willing to be commodore, so it was decided that several families would assume the work of commodore for two weeks each: Whitman, Morton, Rice, Kronmiller, Holt, Rosenstiel, Kebea and Steelamn.

In 1959 serious planning to replace the dock was underway. However, as of May, 1962--the last of the old minutes available, the dock was still unbuilt.