

Ahoy!

# A Testimonial —And It's Time

By  
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and  
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A MOST unorthodox letter of invitation went the round of yachting circles this past week. Excerpt: "As a member of the boating fraternity, you are invited to a testimonial dinner. Testimonial dinners are a dime a dozen—we know that just as well as you do. But this one is different. Now we'll offer proof." Whereupon it does.

The dinner thus introduced will be held Thursday evening at the Red Men's club in Main St. E.; the recipient of the testimonial is J. Webb L. Sheehy; the refreshing letter was largely the work of Daniel M. Beach Jr., faculty member of Rochester Flotilla of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and William H. Ingram, vicecommodore of the Auxiliary in charge of the Lake Ontario area.

The actual happening that inspired the dinner was the elevation of Sheehy to the newly-created position of chief of the Courtesy Motorboat Inspection program of the Coast Guard Auxiliary for the entire Great Lakes District. He is a former commander of the Rochester Power Squadron; preceded Ingram as Lake Ontario boss of the Auxiliary; has made a lifelong hobby of safety in yachting, and is author of a safety and inspection test adopted for boat inspectors in the 9th C. G. District. All of which is enough in the way of bouquets—but, as the letter-writers pointed out, it's a small enough thank-you to a man to whom dozens of yacht clubs and hundreds of skippers are personally indebted.



J. WEBB L. SHEEHY  
... he'll be honored guest

Auxiliary gold braid and regular officers will be on hand from several points in the area, among them Commander Russell Waesche of Cleveland, regular Coast Guard officer in charge of auxiliary work in the district; and with them, representatives of several yacht clubs.

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WITH Commodore F. Ritter Shumway at the tiller, Rochester Yacht Club is disposing of off-season paper work with a flurry of flourish. Key appointments topped the executive committee's last business session. Among them:

**William S. Calkins**, once a top skipper in almost every racing division of the club, to chairman the Rochester Race Committee for 1951. The 3-year-old Rochester Race—world's longest on fresh water—is one of two blue-ribbon yachting events already lined up by RYC for next season. Appropriately, ex-Commodore Calkins was one of the prime movers in creating the race originally.

**A. H. (Bud) Gorsline**, ex-chief judge of the Lake Yacht Racing Association, to chairman the George Cup Committee. This is the other nautical big show for Rochesterians. Coincidentally, the club formally accepted the challenge of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club of Toronto for a crack at the international George Cup. The date is yet to be set for the big show in 6-Meter racing yachts, but if Gorsline's plan is adopted, it will follow by one week the annual LYRA regatta, probably the last Thursday-Friday-Saturday in July.

Gorsline also will double-up as chairman of the club's Sailing Committee.

Winding up the appointments was that of Allen Oliver, accountant and former state senator, as RYC treasurer. Calkins and Gorsline will name their own committees, a practice favored by Commodore Shumway.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the RYC basin, the club's dinghy division squared away for next season with a boost of particularly good news. The word was that Sodus Bay Yacht Club will launch a fleet of the fast 14-foot International dinghies next season, thus giving the RYC enthusiastic competition close to home. The tale from SBYC is that Bob and Tom Bloomer, younger generation of the widely-known Sodus yachting clan of the same name, already have their "14" and that three more are on order.

Other notes on the RYC dinghy division, as scribbled by long Tom Barry, able publicist: Fleet Captain is Bill Boswell, replacing Bob Lawless, who now does his sailing in the Army; Boswell, incidentally, has renamed his Linda the Finesse. Too many lickings and he can simply add a "d" to the boat's name. Pete Gales is secretary-treasurer, and John Gottschalk is the division's representative on the RYC sailing committee.

The division is optimistic despite war clouds; nine of the 14-footers and probably all 10 will take the starting guns for next season's series. The rundown: Finesse, skippered by Boswell with Jack Bartlett crewing; Wee Laird, bought by Gales from Bob Ahrens who is reported ogling a Star so his wife can crew for him; Touche, Barry; Li'l Dipper, Gottschalk; Cobra, Dave Cunningham; Blitz 3rd, Al Jones; Eddystone Light 2nd, Mike Maijgren (a new hull for Mike); Olivia, Barney De Blase; Stork Too, Gene Seary; and for a 10th, no doubt someone will take over Lawless' boat while he is working for Uncle Sam.