

Aug. 19, 1951.

16 Big Racing Yachts Await Start Today Of 4th Rochester Race Around Lake Ontario

By CLIFF CARPENTER

Yacht racing at its toughest and swankiest, the 377-mile world's longest haul on fresh water, gets off at 3 p. m. today on Lake Ontario off the Port of Rochester piers—the 4th Annual Rochester Race.

Sixteen racing-cruising yachts, among them the queens of Great Lakes fleets and some with ocean racing records, promise an all-time handicap sailing classic for this area. They will be shepherded over the gigantic triangular course by Coast Guard and Navy surface ships and a Coast Guard air patrol.

Host Rochester Yacht Club officials expect one of the largest spectator fleets in years will watch the start. The non-stop course almost bumps each end of Lake Ontario, starting and finishing at Rochester. The first leg is westward to Hamilton; next eastward the length of the lake and around Stony Island near the St. Lawrence; the third and final leg back home to Rochester. Depending on calms and storms, the fleet can finish in anywhere from two to five days.

The racers will be cannonaded off to a start by Jack Conroy's handsome Canadian yacht Southwind, which will have aboard Rochester Race Chairman Bill Calkins, RYC Fleet Captain Earl Esty and Sailing Committee Chairman Bud Gorsline.

The parade of racing machinery, particularly as it moves out of the RYC basin and through the piers to the lake, will be a rare one in local history. For the benefit of beachgoers, the yachts will move out at least an hour before the 3 p. m. start.

The race is a uniquely powerful magnet for the yachting fraternity, for it will settle the question whether the giant blue yawl Escapade of Detroit can tie down one of the fastest grand-slams in Great Lakes yachting history. Escapade already has won the Mills trophy race for Lake Erie's distance title; and both the Chicago-Mackinac and the Pt. Huron-Mackinac.

One nautical barrier the fabulous "Eskie" must hurdle is the defending champ, the Venture 3rd of Rochester Yacht Club, a



GEORGE FORD

and beautiful Kittyhawk of Cleveland.

Thumbnail descriptions:

Venture 3rd, RYC: Sailed by George Ford with a crew of 10 including his wife; 52-foot yawl, Freeman Cup winner last year and this; victor in last year's shorter (335-

mile) Rochester Race with an elapsed time of 48 hours 58 minutes 16 seconds. Carries Y 56 on her mainsail.

Escapade, Bayview Y. C., Detroit: Owned by Wendell W. Anderson; probably to be sailed by sons Wendell Jr. and Jack Anderson. A 72½-foot blue-hulled yawl, combination keel-centerboard. Besides the Great Lakes record mentioned above, Escapade holds an older all-time course record for the Pt. Huron-Mackinac and was 3rd in elapsed and 4th in corrected time in the 1950 Bermuda race.

Kittyhawk: Rated even faster than Escapade, and the scratch boat for the Rochester Race. A 70-foot black-hulled yawl handled by the Timken brothers, Robert and John. The "Hawk" was scratch boat in the last Bermuda race; finished 3rd in this year's Port Huron-Mackinac and second in corrected time, barely edged out by Escapade. Principal difference between the two queens seems to be that Kittyhawk does her best in weather that is a mite too light for Escapade.

Apache, Detroit Y. C.: A 45-foot "New York 32" class sloop (NY 2 on sail), handled by Wilfred (Toot) Gmeiner. Apache has won the Mackinac three times, has been handled by Gmeiner for 11 years, and is acknowledged to be one of the most dangerous racers on the lakes.

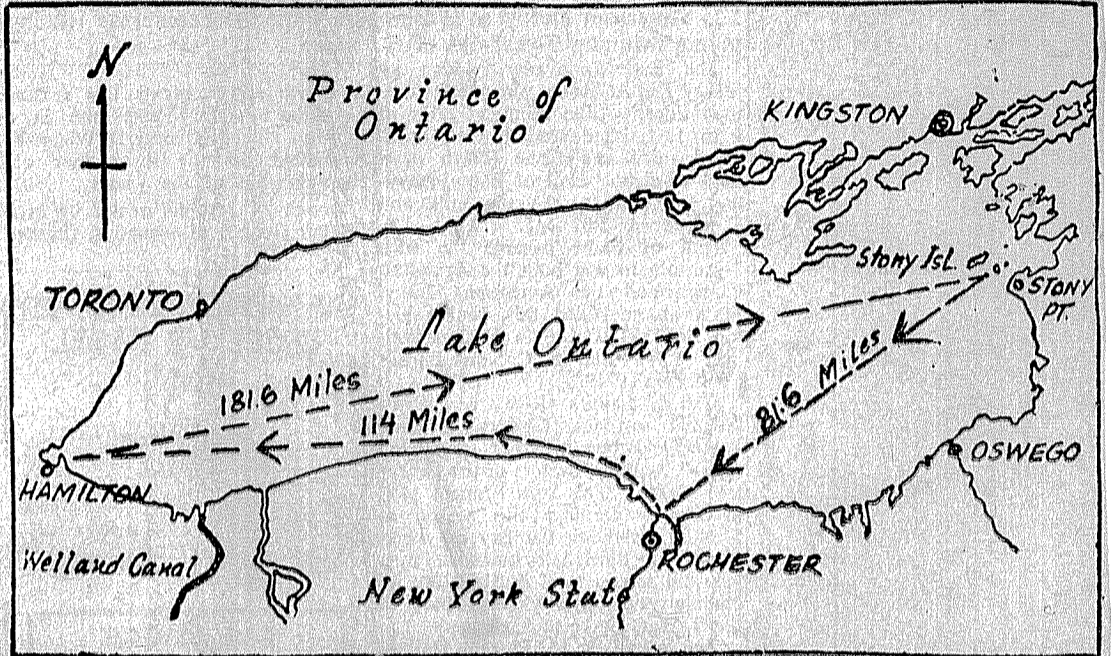
Stormy Petrel, Olcott: A 5-year-old, 51-foot yawl handled by Charles A. Harrison of Lockport. The Petrel was 6th in her class in the last Bermuda race; sailed three St. Petersburg-Havana races, but showed her speed best in a sizzling sail of 5½ days from Miami to New York. Has K-18 on sail.

Desire, Rochester Y. C.: A 42-foot yawl handled by Bob Bridges, Kodak Park architectural engineer, identified with Y-52, and all all-Kodak Park crew.

Sashay, Youngstown Y. C.: Elmer J. (Bud) Doyle's 40-foot Owens cutter. Doyle lost the last Freeman Cup to Ford and Venture 3rd by barely one minute and 17 seconds; in three years Sashay has won her class in the Canadian National Exhibition and Royal Canadian Yacht Club regattas. She is considered one of the fastest 40-footers on the lakes. Her number is 129.

Sweet Chariot, Youngstown Y. C.: C. J. (Chuck) Spaulding's 52-foot cutter (number 270 on sail), German-designed and built in Holland entirely of teak. The Chariot took fourth in the one famous Fastest race off the Coast of England. Spaulding has shortened canvas to comply with Cruising Club of America rules, and is hoping for heavy weather.

Ben Bow, Grosse Pt., Mich.: George A. Bass' 56-ft. schooner



HERE'S COURSE for this year's Rochester Race, which 16 yachts will tackle beginning at 3 p. m. today

(A-18), veteran of last year's Rochester Race. Ben Bow barnstormed in the Ft. Lauderdale-Cat City, Miami-Nassau and St. Petersburg-Havana races, winning the schooner trophy in the Havana race and missing the overall prize by only 6 minutes.

Red Head, Grosse Pt., Mich.: Gilbert B. Pingree's 60-foot yawl, second in elapsed time in the Lake Erie (Mills Trophy) race, and third in elapsed and fourth in corrected time in the Port Huron-Mackinac. Pingree a veteran, has raced 10 Mackinacs. Her number is 48.

Blue Sea 4th, Rochester Y. C.: Vincent J. Mulvey's 44-foot yawl, especially groomed for this year's race, and a veteran of the first Rochester race.

Jack, Youngstown Y. C. and RYC: The 37-foot Jack, a converted 6-meter, is the baby of the fleet. Owned by Ken Hamilton, it is being handled by Hamilton and Herb Wahl of RYC, and racing under the burgees of both clubs.

Skookum 3rd, Rochester Y. C.: Commodore F. Ritter Shumway's 63-foot schooner. She has 110 on her sails.

Heron, Royal Canadian Y. C.: Harry D. Greb's 52-foot schooner,

veteran of previous Rochester races.

Lady Linden, Rochester Yacht Club: Arthur M. R. Hughes' 40-foot Owens cutter.

Tiburon, Sandusky, Ohio: E. F. Emmons' 40-foot cutter, veteran of all Rochester Races, 2nd in her class at Lake Erie's huge Put-in-Bay Regatta last season.