

## **The 1930's and 1940's**

### **1932 - 1935**

George W. Pearson continued as Commodore during this period with W.H. Symonds serving as Secretary and Treasurer. The first sailing trophies were awarded to both Bob Ingersoll and Jane Harrier. Harold (Pete) Beachy was voted Vice-Commodore and Chairman of the Regatta Committee and was the winner of the 1934 sailing trophy. The Western Michigan Yachting Association wrote the club offering their assistance in organizing races. Members of the W.M.Y.A. at that time were White Lake, Spring Lake, Torch Lake, Muskegon Lake, Grand Rapids Y.C., and Macatawa Bay. This period saw the membership grow to 17 members now including B.C. Graves, Ivan Greene and J. Allan Battle.

### **1936 - 1937**

Few records are found for this period. The state of Michigan report shows C.W. Seabury as Commodore, H.P. Beachy as Vice-Commodore and Robert G. Borwell as Secretary-Treasurer. Serving on the board were George Pearson, William Symonds, F.E. Reeve and R.C. Ingersoll. Total membership stood at 20 families.

### **1938 - 1939**

Harold (Pete) Beachy becomes Commodore with Ivan Greene as Vice-Commodore. The board remains the same and membership goes to 29. R.C. Ingersoll, Robert G. Borwell and E.R. Luedtke make donations for a motorboat. Howard Greene acts as Sailing Master. John Seabury, Bob Borwell and Harold (Pete) Beachy sail in the Eighth Annual Western Michigan Regatta at White Lake.

### **1940 - 1941**

Ivan Greene is now Commodore with John Seabury serving as Vice-Commodore and Harriet Beachy as Secretary-Treasurer. Board members are C.W. Seabury, G.W. Pearson and R.C. Borwell.

The first step toward building a clubhouse was initiated.

**Crystal Lake Yacht Club**  
Frankfort, Michigan

August 14, 1940

Mr. Leon D., Rose, Secretary  
Crystal Downs Country Club  
Frankfort, Michigan

Dear Mr. Rose:

The Crystal Lake Yacht Club is planning to build a clubhouse, and for that purpose we are requesting the Crystal Downs Country Club the use of the south half of the Country Club Swimming Harbor.

We believe, inasmuch as the memberships of both organizations overlap to a great degree, that this would be an excellent site, advantageous to both clubs. We plan to have an architect design the building, which would insure an attractive and useful addition to the harbor, and make it far more important in the summer life of the members of the Country Club than it is now.

If our request should be granted, we would cooperate with the Country Club in maintaining the roads and beautifying the grounds.

We earnestly request your serious consideration of this matter, as we feel that with such an arrangement both clubs would benefit highly.

With the best wish of the Crystal Lake Yacht Club, I remain

Yours very truly,

Ivan Greene

Commodore,  
Crystal Lake Yacht Club

In August of 1941 Torch Lake Yacht Club hosted the Western Michigan Yachting Association Regatta and the "C" Boat competition was represented by John Seabury, Robert Borwell, Harold (Pete) Beachy, Willard Webb, Ted Doan, A.H. Upton and Harold Thomas. Membership was at 27. William McMillan is hired as Sailing Master.

September 26 of 1941 saw a lease agreement executed between the Club and Crystal Downs Country Club whereby Crystal Downs leased 50 feet of its 100 feet of Crystal Lake frontage to the club for one dollar with the option to buy. The agreement was signed by John Seabury for CLYC and J. Alien Battle for Crystal Downs who was also a member of the CLYC. Plans for the Clubhouse were drawn up by Alexander McColl.

## 1942

The Clubhouse was built mostly through the generous contribution of C.W. Seabury and R.C. Borwell. This card was sent out to the members.



Inside the card was inscribed John Seabury, Commodore; Ted Doan, Vice Commodore; Bill Webb, Fleet Captain; Mary Louise McMillan, Secretary/Treasurer.

## 1943

Willard Dow is elected Commodore, with Bill Webb as Vice Commodore; Ivan Greene, Secretary-Treasurer and Tom Webb, Fleet Captain. Willard Dow and Bill Webb were not able to be at the lake this summer, the former because of the press of war work and the latter because of summer school. Ivan Greene and Tom Webb took over their duties as well as their own.

With Crystal Downs Country Club not open except for golf, CLYC took its place in the informal social life of the community.

Bobbie Beachy wrote many excellent articles in the local paper, reporting race results with many details and expounding the virtues of sailing such as

"sailing takes one outside and on the lake for pleasant hours that formerly were spent driving around the country. The scenery one enjoys from the waters of Crystal Lake is as lovely as anyone could ask for and is enhanced by the pleasure of sailing quietly over beautiful blue water".

The yacht club misses John Seabury seeing duty on a PT boat, Joe Upton in Africa and Bill McMillan in the Army Air Force as a navigator.

### **1944 -1945**

Richard M. Headley becomes Commodore, Thomas Webb, Vice Commodore and Ivan Greene, Secretary/Treasurer. The same stalwarts remain as board members - G.W. Pearson, C.W. Seabury and R.C. Borwell. There are no records of activities for this period. The war years continue.

### **1946**

The only records available at this time indicated that the member-ship had grown to 62 families.

### **1947 - 1948**

As Commodore, William M. Bardens published the first Tell Tale which was 15 glossy pages with an article called "At the Helm" by the Commodore that was newsworthy about the Club, along with an extensive article by Harold Thomas about the technical aspect of sailing a Scow which is still considered a classic. There were racing results which included Wood-Pussies for the first time, some photos of club activity and ads paid for by the local merchants. In conjunction with this premier issue, there were to be results of a contest for the naming of the publication and the winner was Mrs. John Seabury (Charlene) for the name "Tell Tale". Officers were John Seabury, Vice Commodore and Mrs. Willard Webb H, Secretary; George Pugh, Treasurer and Walker (Skip) Wynkoop. Fleet Captain. The board was comprised of H.P. Beachy, Ivan Greene. C.W. Seabury, H.A. Thomas, Willard Webb III and Mrs. Harold Nutting.

A most significant event was the hiring of Occie Gunkler as Sailing Master because this was the beginning of the Gunkler era which had such an influence in promoting sailing and water safety.

## **1949**

Willard (Bill) Webb III took over the helm as Commodore and per his letter of January 1993 says the Club was hard pressed to elect a Commodore at 24 years of age and that he had great support because the Club survived. The Vice Commodore was John Seabury, Fleet Captain, Bob Schreiner; Treasurer, Paul Pate and Secretary Eva Moore with the board being C.W. Seabury, Harold Thomas, H.P. Beachy, Ivan Greene, Mrs. H.P. Beachy and William Bardens. The 20th Western Michigan Regatta was the highlight of the season at CLYC, which Ivan Greene handled as chairman. Participants in Class "C" were John Seabury, Pete Beachy, Bill Webb, Jay Webb, George Kirchmer, Howard Greene, Bob Larson, Hugh Post, Bob Wynkoop and Herb Dow.