

INTERNATIONAL 14 DINGHY

The 14' Dinghy was the "young man's boat" of the 1920's through the 1950's. Starting with the "cats" and progressing through the sloop-rigged lapstrakes to the open-deck, smooth-skinned English type, these sensitive boats were the primary small boat class at RYC. Few were the skippers and crew of our larger boats who did not, at one time or another, perform on the RYC dinghy course or engage the Canadians in the Douglass, Emerson, Curry, or Eastwood Trophy regattas.

Early skippers include George Ford, Bill Tarr, Dwight Hill, Mike Maijgren, Ritter Shumway, Mort Anstice, Bill Little, Gil Barber, John Gottschalk, and Lew Howard. They were soon followed by Norm Cole, Virginia Cole (one of RYC's first woman racing skippers), Jerry Castle, Bob Cummings, George Angle, Dick Castle, Bob Corbett, Jon Heinrich, and Howie Rekers — to name but a few. They participated in such memorable sailing events as the 1937 four-boat team trip to Denmark and England, the 1939 team race series at Larchmont, the numerous home-and-home Eastwood Series with Royal St. Lawrence Yacht Club in Montreal, the yearly Essex Yacht Club regatta in Connecticut, the 1948 North American held in Rochester, and the annual Bermuda Race Week.

In 1950 Bob Lawless and Dave Cunningham skippered their own 14's at the World Regatta in Los Angeles, and in 1952 Frank R. Shumway and Gene VanVoorhis tied this class in the LYRA Regatta. The following year at LYRA Charlie Shumway, Gene Van Voorhis, and Ted Goodwin swept first, second, and third place.

Racing 14's was sometimes more play than work; however, as indicated by the long-time decor of the entrance to the Dinghy area, on the east side of the basin: a purple cow painted on two windows of the first locker in the row, with its head section on the front window and its tail section on the rear window. The lockers themselves were none too commodious, yet one provided sleeping quarters for Lew Howard who commuted from Buffalo every weekend.

Boat names were also a great source of amusement. As if in a contest to see who could most completely cover his 14's transom, the sailors came up with such memorable names as Maijgren's *Eddystone Light*, Anstice's *Poopdeck Pappy*, and Dick Castle's *Olivia Q. Domminger*. Others seemed aptly to describe their own approach to the sport, such as Ritter Shumway's *Gadget* which surely would have been equipped with radar if it had been invented then.

New generations of RYC "young men" eventually discovered new designs to experiment with and, despite the efforts of Ted Goodwin, Chuck Angle, and others to revive interest in the open designs, the 14' Dinghy finally faded from local competition. Still, those who were part of this exciting era will never fail to boast that they were once 14 sailors.



US 3, TOKEN, with Dwight Hill and Jerry Castle in 1938.