

D I D Y O U K N O W

The Genesee Dinghy Club was located just east of the U.S. Life Saving Station partially on land now occupied by Westage at the Harbor Condomin:ums.

There were approximately 20 boats. These dinghies were 12' long, 4 ft. beam, carrying 96 sq. ft. of sail and were all one design. The sail plan was cat-rigged, sliding gunter of 96 sq. ft. A small triangular course, from just beyond the end of the Summerville pier and to the east of it, was the usual race course.

The location of the club and its launching sight gave it good protection most of the time but, as we all know, when our late season north-easters rolled in, launching sometimes had to be curtailed. A story has it, that at these times, a few of the more enthusiastic members would join forces and carry a few of the boats over to the river to launch. It seems that dinghy sailing was a bit more difficult in these early days. The race committee usually operated from the Summerville Pier itself. There is no record of a club boat being used.

Thomas A. (Burt) Sharp was one of the early Commodores of the Genesee Dinghy Club who, later in 1933, became Commodore of the Rochester Yacht Club. A few of our older members will remember his beautiful 10 Metre Sloop "Blue Goddess" in the late 1930's and early 1940's.

Some of the members, who lived in the city, had framed cots mounted on one wall in the boat locker. It could be let down over the dinghy for sleeping purposes by means of two lines and pulleys and folded up against the wall for the removal of the dinghy from the locker. The mast, garf and boom were hung on the opposite wall.

This enabled the members to stay overnight and thus eliminated the long street car ride back to the city in the evening. Remember this was in the days when the automobile was somewhat of a rarity.

Founded well before W.W. I, the club became part of the RYC in the early 1900's and then went to 14 ft. clinker built decked Canadian dinghies. Later in the 1930's the dinghy club went to the open International Dinghy made popular by the late Uffa Fox, the great English Yacht designer, after his very successful Regatta at the RCYC in this type of boat.

If anyone has any information regarding the old Genesee Dinghy Club, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

The sketch of the boat house and launching areas (on reverse side) was prepared by Ed Spelman who was a member of the Genesee Dinghy Club.

John Ochs
Historical Committee