

Edgar Raymond



In honoring **Edgar L. Raymond, Jr.**, the Norwalk Old Timers have selected one of America's most respected sailors. It is doubtful that another countryman has sailed in as many races during the last 60 years or acquired as many trophies from competition as the Rowayton man who is being honored here tonight.

The races range from the prestigious challenge round for the defense of America's Cup in 1958 aboard the *Weatherly* to the weekly frostbite races each Sunday during the winter in Larchmont and Norwalk. The trophies range from the coveted America's Cup taken in 1957 aboard *Figaro* to seven first place finishes in the Riverside-to-Stratford overnight races between 1940 and 1952 aboard his beloved *Chanteyman*, the 33-foot ketch bought in 1935, a fiberglass replica of which is anchored perennially off his property on the Five Mile River.

"I never worked as hard in my life as I did the four months aboard *Weatherly*," he recalled recently. He was never more disheartened by a race experience.

"We won eight of the first 11 trial races against the other three boats — *Columbia*, *Easterner*, and *Vim* — seeking to defend our cup. Then we lost two of three in a series we didn't realize was sudden death. We were really burned up about it and were ready to pack it in and leave Newport, but after a while I began to think about it and prevailed on the crew to remain for another two weeks. *Weatherly* was a trial horse for *Columbia*, the eventual successful defender captained by Briggs Cunningham of Greens Farms and Cornelius Shields of New York. The boat also would be the successful defender in 1962 with Bus Mosbacher at the helm."

While the America's Cup stands supreme in his memory, a close second is recalling the successful campaign for the America's Cup aboard *Figaro*, owned by the late William Snaith of Weston, the lengthy competition ending in the famous 650-mile run from the island of Cowes in the English Channel to the southern tip of Ireland and back to Plymouth on the British coast.

Raymond has been captain, helmsman, or first mate in many sailing events including the National Class A in 1935, the National Dyer D four years from 1927-'40, the National B-1 Design in 1947-'48, the Stamford to Martha's Vineyard Race Class B title from 1937-'39, and in 1941 with *Chanteyman*, the Nassau Race winner aboard *Revenoc* in 1947, the Bermuda Race title three times aboard *Suluan* in 1948 and *Loki* twice, in 1952 and 1958, the Southern Ocean Racing Circuit four times from 1959-'63 aboard *Solution* twice, *Rhubarb* and *Calooh* and the Trans-Atlantic race from Bermuda to Scandinavia aboard *Carina* in 1965.

More recently he finished second overall during the 1980-'81 six-month frostbite season of the Norwalk Yacht Club and won this year's Off Soundings Spring race. He also competes regularly in the Wednesday night races off Green's Ledge light where younger sailors admire his ability to finesse them at the starting line. In addition to these laurels, the rank of commodore has been conferred on him by three yacht clubs.

Ed is the son of a multi-decorated U.S. Naval officer in both World Wars and captain of Standard Oil tankers in peacetime. His family first settled in Rowayton in the mid-17th century.

He graduated from the February 1928 class at Norwalk High where he never lost a 100 or 220 yard dash. He served as captain of NHS football, hockey, and track squads. A knee injury prevented him from accepting a scholarship to Fordham University. Locally, he played football for the Pastime AC and organized the Rowayton Hose Company's hockey team playing with them until he was 45 years old.

A metallurgical chemist, he was president of the Elm Refining Co. in Stamford for many years before joining Reiser and Hathway, sailmakers, in 1948, and retired as president in 1974.

Edgar and his wife, Fay, married 47 years, live at 78 Rowayton Avenue. Incidentally, Fay has been Ed's crew in frostbite competition and on the *Chanteyman*. They have two children, Edgar, who took over his father's business, and Barbara, who is married to Thomas F. Murray.