



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

Wiley A. Cole, 1947

1893-1982

After serving in the U.S. Engineers in France during World War I, Wiley was sent by the Red Cross for rest in Brittany. There, two French boys took Wiley and a pal for a sail in a small gaff-headed open boat. It was an adventure that both terrified and thrilled him... and he was hooked. His first boat was a Patricia skimmer, which he bought and sailed in Santa Barbara in 1930. Wiley and his wife Harriet moved south for 10 years, where Wiley joined the San Diego Yacht Club, was Captain of the San Diego Star Fleet, and served on the race committee of the international championships in 1940. Wiley returned to Santa Barbara in 1942 to serve as district manager for the Union Oil Company. During his commodore term, the Santa Barbara Yacht Club was host to the second SCYA Summer Regatta following World War II. Wiley served as president of Semana Nautica for four years and wrote on maritime happenings for the Santa Barbara News-Press. In 1944, he acquired the 28-foot Cutter Lourita, which proved to be a happy partnership. Wiley completed 28 summer races with the Lourita, placing her name on the Spaulding Trophy, the Hollister Memorial, the Wiman Perpetual, and winning the 1957 PCYA Championships Arbitrary Class. Wiley was Commodore of SCYA in 1958, when SBYC was again host to the Summer Regatta. He was the Yacht Club's liaison to the Harbor Commission and served as Fleet Captain.