



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

Roy E. Gammill, 1938, 1941

1903-1965

Roy was a prominent State Street businessman who owned a men's haberdashery under his name. Roy was active in all matters of business concerns. He was president of the Retail Merchants Association (and was on the committee that opposed the use of parking meters, considering it contrary to the old California hospitality to charge visitors for parking). He served on the board of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association. He was also elected president of the Chamber of Commerce. He was a great believer in demonstrating to city and county officials the benefits of yachting to the business community. This policy paid off. At his request, the city and county gave financial support to the SCYA Regatta of 1947, which in turn provided much media exposure and renewed tourism for the city after the war.

A great sports enthusiast, Roy could be found supporting everything from a celebrated exhibition tennis tournament featuring England's Wightman's Cup team, to the Santa Barbara Saints baseball team (part of the California Baseball League formed in 1938). He also chaired the sailing events for Semana Nautica. In 1938, as the Santa Barbara Yacht Club commodore, Roy teamed up with Commodore Cecil Dunn of the temporarily competing Corinthian Yacht Club to host the Trans-Pac race starting in Santa Barbara. The association was positive and smooth; in 1939 the two clubs had combined into the Santa Barbara Corinthian Yacht Club (with Gammill serving as vice-commodore). The next year, the organization melded back into Santa Barbara Yacht Club, and the following year, Roy found he was back at the helm. During his second time as commodore, Roy presided over the Southern California Yachting Association regatta in Santa Barbara.