



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

James D. Lowsley, 1909

(1880-1962)

James was one of eight children born to a Southern Pacific Rail inspector who moved his family to Santa Barbara when the railroad was being built. Starting as a messenger boy for a bank, Lowsley worked up the corporate financial ladder to become vice-president of First National Bank. Founded in 1871, this was the oldest national bank in Southern California and the third oldest in the state. The bankers were all men of prominence in the community and very involved with civic affairs. Lowsley was chairman of the local chapter of the Red Cross, a member of Kiwanis and the Masons, and he headed up receptions for visiting dignitaries to Santa Barbara. Lowsley was only 29 when he became commodore of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club. He wisely recognized early on the important role the Yacht Club could play in his community and had his club members work with the 1909 Summer Tournament Association to arrange sailing races to attract yachtsmen.