



# SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

## **Homer H. Shirrell, 1928, 1932**

1894-1987

Homer grew up in Santa Barbara and served as sales manager for Santa Barbara's luxury automobile showroom, serving the early movie stars here from the Flying A silent film studio. With extensive business contacts, Homer headed up the building fundraising campaign under Commodore Doulton. Homer, Captain Ed Gourley, and Preston Butcher each served at least twice as commodore in the years from 1927 to 1932. During his commodore year, Homer and Yacht Club members saw tremendous changes to the waterfront – the breakwater construction began, the wharf was refurbished, and a grand new clubhouse was built on the wharf.

After serving as commodore in 1928, Homer Shirrell returned at the request of his club to lead the sailors for a second term. As commodore, Homer hosted some one hundred boats at the Pacific Coast Regatta in 1932, at which the King of Denmark Trophy was first awarded. (This was a perpetual challenge cup for six-meter racing in California waters; it was won by Don Douglas, the Santa Monica aeronautical engineer.) The regatta awards night was held at the Hotel Samarkand, where Commodore Shirrell presented a life membership to Dr. Albert Soiland, commodore of the Trans-Pacific Yacht Club. During World War II, he served as a captain in the Navy and was chief of personnel in the 12th Naval District. Homer was also commodore of the Pacific Coast Yachting Association and of the Southern California Yachting Association.