



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

Wilmot Hughes, 1956

1894-1972

Wilmot was a prominent State Street businessman who owned “The Hughes,” a longtime favorite of local ladies shopping for women’s apparel and accessories. Wilmot, who was called “Pops” by his friends and family, was a popular civic leader and president of the Rotary Club. He joined the Yacht Club in 1930 and his first boat was the Ora B, which he leased for two years. Because of a problem with his hands, he found he could not handle the lines and realized he would have to rule out sailing. So, the first boat he bought was a cabin cruiser, TommyDee, purchased in the 1930s for \$4,000. This was followed by the Del Mar; later he owned various large cruisers, which were named Romance I, II, III and IV. They were a familiar sight during summer cruises at all of the southern ports, including San Diego and Avalon. He suffered a curious lifelong physical ailment from a childhood accident. In 1932, a physician told him he had only five years to live, and when his wife asked what he wanted to do in that time, he replied “go boating.” He went on to live 40 more years, which his wife completely credited to the positive and invigorating effects of boating.