



# SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

## **William H. Wilson, 1965**

1923-1990

Bill sailed all of his life, starting in small class boats. He and his brother had Star boat number 1098. Bill's participation in sailing events made him the best-known skipper ever to fly a Santa Barbara Yacht Club burgee. After joining the Yacht Club, he sailed a PCC, a K-50, and a Tripp-designed all-aluminum yawl – all named Rascal. The Rascals took part in and won a myriad of races...including all of the Mexican West Coast races, Honolulu races, and the San Francisco to Tahiti race, in which he placed first. Sailing in ocean racing, his Rascals covered 100,000 nautical miles.

One of Santa Barbara's leading businessmen, Bill Wilson was President of Wilson-McMahan Stores, a large chain of furniture stores in various states, headquartered in Santa Barbara. As president of a large corporation, Bill had tremendous drive, a competitive spirit, and a decisive personality. This came in good stead when he served as commodore, as he became the driving force behind getting the new clubhouse built. After serving for three years on the state small craft commission and the local harbor commission, Bill Wilson was appointed by Governor Ronald Reagan to the State Navigation and Ocean Development Commission.