

PAMET HARBOR YACHT CLUB

In the early 1950's, the boat yard, Pamet River Yachts, was located where the Yacht Club is today. It was a full-service boat yard, which included boat building, boat repairs, outside boat storage and a marine railway. The two owners, Roy Blaney and Dave Foster lived in what is called "down east" Maine. Two of the better known boats built at the yard included Charlie Mayo's charter boat, Chanty III, and the first of the Dolphin fleet, Al Avelars' Dolphin I. The yard ceased operations around 1955, and was acquired by Wilbur and Sheldon Rockwell of Wellfleet. They operated the yard for three or four more years before operations ceased for the final time.

Once the boat yard property became available, the idea of a yacht club was conceived. In early August of 1960, a meeting was held at the Marshall home, on Marshall Lane, which is located off Depot Road. Leo D. Marshall, Fred Davis, Jerry Hobbs, Joe Flanagan, Raymond Cadorette and Lyman Bowker attended. At this meeting, the Pamet Harbor Yacht Club was established. Funding for the club was created through the sale of shares of stock valued at \$100.00 per share. The original directors purchased enough shares to enable them to purchase the vacant boat yard.

It is interesting to note that out of the original six directors, three had never owned a boat, and only one, Jerry Hobbs, owned an 18-foot sailboat. None of the original directors had ever been a member of any kind of yacht club. The purchase of the boat yard was basically a purchase of land, because the building was in terrible condition. It was held up with wire rope strung from one side to the other.

In late August or early September of that year, a hurricane was approaching the Eastern seaboard. Two days before the storm struck, Leo D. Marshall had Tony Duarte (Duarte Insurance) put an insurance binder on the building for \$35,000.00. The hurricane struck the lower Cape, and the boat shed was a total loss. The insurance revenue of \$35,000.00 enabled the directors to build the Yacht Club building which stands today. Leo D. Marshall designed the building, and William Sturtevant, from Wellfleet, built it. Once the building was erected, membership increased and the tennis and sailing programs became a reality. Quickly, through the efforts of the original Board, the Pamet Harbor Yacht Club became a full-service Yacht Club.