

R. W. (Rudy) CASPERS

B - 1894 D - 1958

Rudy Caspers became a member of the Santa Barbara Yacht Club in early 1950s and remained active until 1958. He owned several boats including the 58' *ALOHA* and the 56' *SAMARANG*.

Rudy was a banking executive in Pasadena, CA, where he and his wife Lorna had a home, they also maintained a second home in Montecito. Rudy joined the Santa Barbara Yacht Club in the early 1950s, participating actively in Club events and sailboat racing, including many long distance and offshore races.

Notably, Rudy originated and organized the Club's first annual Luau party. He and his two sons, Ronald (Ron) and William (Bill), were accomplished musicians and played Hawaiian music at the Luau events. Both sons were also members of Santa Barbara Yacht Club.

In 1957 Rudy donated two trophies to the Club-- one for the Club's Opening Day Race and the other for the Season Championship.

The Caspers Trophy Mystery

There is an interesting story regarding the Caspers' trophies: in 1957, Rudy specified in the Deed of Gift that once the trophy was awarded, it would remain in the possession of the winner and then returned to the Club one week prior to the next presentation. One year, the Opening Day Trophy was not returned to the Club and was considered lost. Prompting the creation of a new trophy. Eventually the original trophy was found, resulting in three almost identical R. W. Caspers trophies.

All three trophies have been re-dedicated and remain in the Yacht Club collection.

Rudy Caspers died in 1958, while walking on the beach in Montecito.