

THE CRONIN STORY IS THE DOLPHIN STORY (Continued)

crews, both shells and barges, and also singles champions, both shell and skiff. Jimmie rowed single skiff and in the 4-oared barge. Jim and Al Duperu often rowed to work in the morning in a double-oared rowboat (then called a Whitehall gig) from the Dolphin clubhouse to the sugar company, a rowing distance of some 8 to 10 miles each way. They tied up the boat in a lagoon and then rowed back to the Club after work, rowing for about 1½ to 2 hours each way. Jimmie remained active in rowing for over 60 years, until just a few years ago.

Today there is a promising surge of rowing interest in the Dolphin Club. Because of the unfavorable rowing conditions at our end of the Aquatic Park Cove, the Dolphins have constructed new crew quarters on Lake Merced. Until such time as we succeed in moving the clubhouse back to the West end of the Cove, Lake Merced offers good rowing conditions; and a new and fine calibered group of young, vigorous and enthusiastic oarsmen promise a continuing successful Dolphin rowing history.

DOLPHIN CLUB ORIGINATES ANNUAL GOLDEN GATE SWIM

Jim Cronin has always been, and still is, active in swimming. He swam the Golden Gate in the first organized swimming race across the Gate ever held by any group. This was in 1917 when the Dolphins first promoted this annual classic. He also swam the Gate in 1918. During his many years of service with the sugar company Jimmie always managed time for his daily swim and sun bath, in addition to his daily rowing trips to and from work. And today, at 86 years young, Jim still swims in the Cove almost every day and also enjoys the sun on the Dolphin sun deck.

The Golden Gate swim is growing more popular each year. From a handful of contestants it has gradually increased to an average of 30 to 35. Several new members expect to enter the race this year and there may be over 40 contestants in this Dolphin event on October 3, 1954. The Dolphin Club has not only originated the Golden Gate Swimming race but has also pioneered various other competitive swims. Quite a few years ago, it held swimming races around Alcatraz Island; and more recently, it began to hold annually the Racoon Straits swim and the Aquatic Park handicap. The latter two events are popular and have now become permanent parts of our annual swimming program, which is about as active an open-water program as can be found anywhere. In addition to the great interest in Dolphin Club competitive swimming, many members, including several Dolphin youngsters in their 60's, 70's and 80's, enjoy their daily dips regularly, winter and summer, for pure pleasure and healthful invigoration.

HANDBALL POPULAR DOLPHIN SPORT

Cronin also played handball throughout practically all of the many years of his Dolphin membership, competing in Club tournaments until only a few years ago. Until about 1923 when the first Dolphin's fine handball court was built, handball was played with tennis balls in the Dolphin locker room, the lockers on the sides forming the side walls of the handball court. Handball has been consistently popular among the members. Many former handball champs are now Dolphin life members and many have also competed in swimming and rowing, the Club being proud of its many all-round athletes. Last year 28 members

(Continued on next column)

competed in the handball tournaments, their ages ranging from about 15 to 55. In addition there are several others who play for pleasure without entering tournament competition. As in all other club sports it is wholly a matter of individual preference whether a member engages therein competitively or purely for pleasure. The important thing is the Dolphin spirit of sportsmanship, not the question of who is the winner.

JIMMIE MAKES HIKE AND OCEAN DIP FOR 62 CONSECUTIVE YEARS

The Dolphin Club was also the originator of the annual winter hike to the Beach and ocean dip, holding this event for the first time in 1892. Cronin hasn't missed this 8-mile hike from the clubhouse and plunge into the surf since it was first held 62 years ago. And we expect and hope that this year, at the age of 86, he'll lead the parade as usual, and will continue to do so for many years to come.

DOLPHIN OFFICER AND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS OFFICIAL

Since shortly after joining the Dolphin Club in 1891 Jim has been an active Club officer, having throughout the many years occupied practically every office through the Presidency and has now continuously and capably been Club Treasurer for at least a couple centuries. And during his 63 years of Club membership he has served on countless committees, has participated in Club activities in about every possible capacity, and has attended and wholeheartedly cooperated in virtually every Dolphin Club affair, social, athletic, or otherwise, held since 1892--and there have been several hundreds of such happy, memorable occasions.

In addition to this varied and lengthy career Jimmie was a member of the Board of Governors of the P.A.A. (Pacific Athletic Association) for over 50 years and Secretary of the P.A.A.O. (Pacific Association of Amateur Oarsmen) for 35 years.

OPTIMISTIC, INSPIRATIONAL, FORWARD OUTLOOK

Jim recalls with pleasure these many past occasions and his varied personal participation in the weaving of the rich Dolphin Club history. He remembers with deep respect and admiration the many Dolphin members who have passed on to row or swim in calmer waters. But it is the wonderful, inspiring character of this remarkable man to vigorously live in the present, his good cheer, clear thinking, humor and optimism ever geared forward, inspiring every one of us to work toward a Dolphin Club future even greater than its glorious past.

A fine intangible value has often been referred to as "The Dolphin Spirit". Jim Cronin's life proves that this Spirit has real, vital existence. Its roots reach deeply into the rich soil of the Dolphin Club's long and colorful history, nourish the present and inspire the future. Yes, it exists, and it means the same thing as does the name "Jimmie Cronin",--good fellowship, cheerful optimism, the clean, healthful, vigorous body and mind, friendly competition, good sportsmanship and brotherly cooperation. "WELL DONE, JIMMIE!" ALL DOLPHINS - JOIN IN EXPRESSING THANKS FOR YOUR LIFELONG DEVOTION AND FIDELITY TO THE CLUB YOU LOVE SO MUCH AND TO ITS FINE PRINCIPLES AND HOPE THAT YOUR INSPIRING PRESENCE MAY CONTINUE AMONG US FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.