

Lake Merced boathouse

Jim Storm, tall (6'8") and genial, is an almost retired psychoanalyst of 80. An Olympic medalist in Tokyo in 1964, he continues to row here and in San Diego, his native territory. He also runs the Dolphin Club's rowing program on Lake Merced in the southwest corner of San Francisco. There the Club shelters six boats of its own as well as 16 more owned by club members.

You can row there if you wish, provided you've successfully weathered the training course in the Cove and can sustain yourself under the test of Jim's well-trained eye. He says it's easy if you can handle the fundamentals, and you receive a key to the boat house as a reward. If so, you'll share the square mile body of water with students from St. Ignatius High School and members of the Pacific Rowing Club, who inhabit the city-owned boat house with the Dolphin Club. Fewer than twenty Dolphins are rowing there now.

The origins of our location on Lake Merced lie in the



Renewed sign outside Boat House in Lake Merced beside craftsman, Life Member Nick Strelchuk.

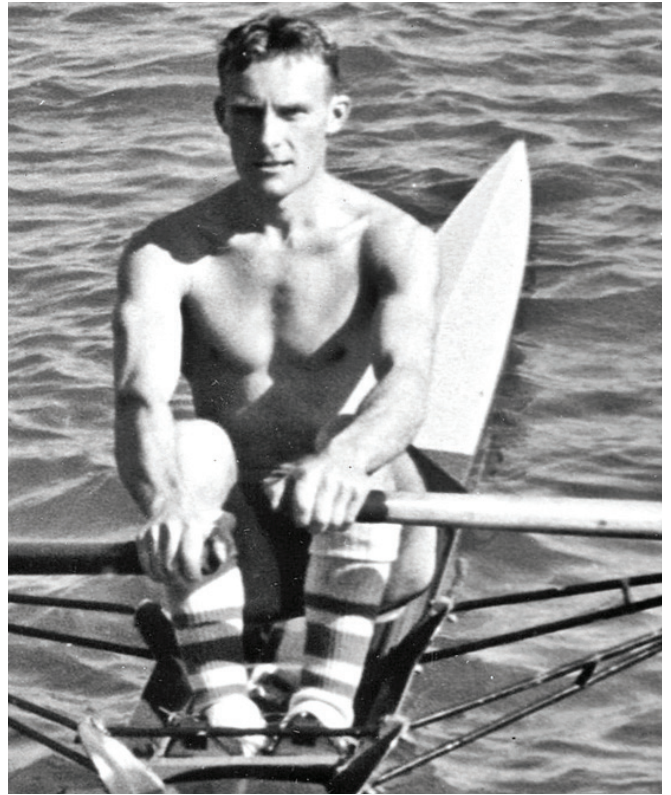
movement of a shell house (built in 1935 at Pier 54) from China Basin to the lake in 1952, when the City constructed the Lake Merced Sports Center. (More early history in an article in the Log by Gary Ehrsam: <https://archiveorg/details/DolphinLogs1995To1999/page/n57/mode/2up>)

The Dolphin Club was assigned one bay, and must pay a nominal rent for each boat housed. It's the first building on your right as you enter Harding Park, immediately south of the zoo.

On the boathouse you'll find the name of Tom Troneum, who was both a highly valued rowing coach and swimmer, and a Life Member who served as president in 1960. Because the boathouse sign is in the style of the name boards on wooden boats, Jim contacted Jon Bielinski, caretaker of our salt-water fleet. Jon had just the person for the job, Life Member Nick Strelchuk. The beautiful

sign, originally crafted by Bob Hoff, was dedicated in 1986, naming the Lake Merced shell house in honor of Tom Troneum.

Tobias (Tom) Troneum was born on October 26, 1900, in



Tom Troneum, past president, after whom the boathouse is named.

Norway. He joined the Club in August 1925 and served the Club for the next sixty years.

In the heady days of club rowing regattas, Tom won six Pacific Coast single sculling championship titles in the late 1930s. As his competition days faded, he transitioned into a rowing commissioner, coach, and an inspiration to younger athletes. Tom died in 1985, at age 84, however his talent, service, and generosity continue to inspire. The Dolphin Club Youth Rowing program is named the "Tom Troneum Scullers."

He ran the Lake Merced operation until he was relieved by Steve Wolf in the mid 1970s. Jim Storm took over in 1979 and has been unable to find a successor. Interested?

Joe Illick



Lake Merced, home of the freshwater Dolphin Club.

Dolphin Club Annual
Meeting
6:30 pm Weds Oct
20, 2021
Live and/or Zoom