

DOLPHIN TRINKETS

-TIME GIVES OBJECTS SPECIAL MEANING-

By Christopher M. Kelly

There are many rites of passage for members of the Club, like their first swim, their first row, or their first Escape from Alcatraz. The greatest part of these activities lies in merely attempting them. Another important part exists in the awarding of the prize for competing or participating. Often seeming whimsical when they are originally given, they gain a special meaning as time passes.



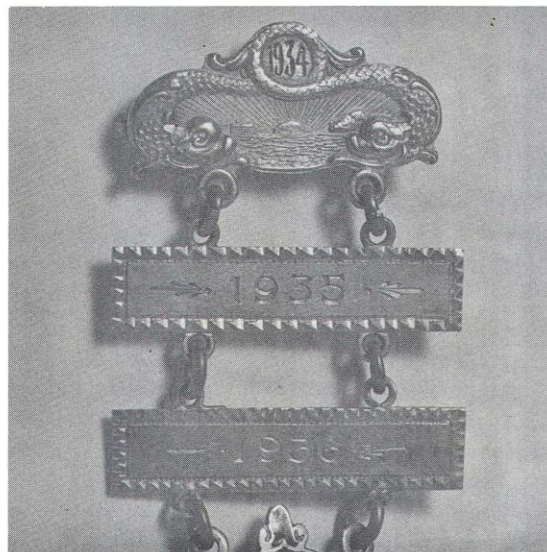
1964. He and his comrades were rewarded for their fitness with the shiny Penguin lighter at center, ideal for sparking up a smoke after a workout on the pavement, in a Whitehall or through the brine. The current swim commissioner has been noted for making

The medal that was given to swimmers at the conclusion of the fall 1934 Golden Gate swim, (shown above) is, an example. Dolphin legend Joe Bruno earned it after a top ten performance in the treacherous Gate waters. Bars bearing two consequent Gate swims mark the infancy of Joe's remarkable record — 61 crossings. "No amount of money could ever replace that thing if it was lost," says Joe. Indeed. The 1934 bar of the medal is etched with a sunset scene of the Golden Gate (shown right). The sun lights Fort Point and Lime Rock, and its beams are unblocked by the bridge that would be built two years later.

Thirty years after Joe

Bruno's swim, Dolphin historian Walt Schneebeil swam from Alcatraz to the Dolphin beach in the late summer of

some unusual choices for swim totems, but the Penguin gets Walt's all-time vote.



Nearly thirty years later, Dolphin neophyte Janice Schultz rode the wild flood from the Gas House Marina to the shore of Aquatic Park in the summer of 1993. As she finished washing her feet after her swim, an unassuming plastic trinket was pressed into her bay-chilled hand by David Zovickian. She was mildly amused until she saw the two prongs coming out the back of the dingus and plugged it into an outlet later that night. The orange glow that came from it lights her home night after night. Her feeling about it now reflects the same sentiment felt by members over the last six decades. "...it's a constant reminder of the special times I've had at the Dolphin Club."