

George Fisher
Buckeye Lake, O.

Aug. 31 1979

Dear George: First my delightful congratulations to you & crew for your Interlake nationals win, and then to Greg for his 3rd in Thistle Nationals. It is no disgrace to be beaten by a Mallory Champion like Chris Dornan in his 1st Thistle Championship. Sorry to miss you at Put-in-Bay but after 3 months we were homesick.

Now I have a wish that may be well accepted or not and I wouldn't know who to better address it to than you. Of course our mutual regard will remain unchanged whatever the outcome.

While I officially represented Put-in-Bay Yacht Club as Commodore of the Interlake in 1964 my year book shows that I had Buckeye Lake Yacht Club very much in mind.

Cliff Dum my General Chairman and in complete charge of Junior Race Week.
Murray Headlee on his race com.
Marty Headlee Ship shape chairman
Dwight Haggard Trophy chairman
Dottie Dum Hospitality chairman
Haggard was also my choice as Trophy Chairman for ILYA Ed Finneran & Jack Swatz on his com.
John Bohanan was Publicity chairman
Cliff Dum was a Sail Yacht Judge
Park Chase was on the Entertainment Com.
Dum & John Fisher on Sail Yacht RaceCom.
Chuck Williams was honored on the Year Book Com.
Chas. Daugherty and Max Slaughter were both on the "Other Sports" Com.
A long BLYC stronghold

Now something that very few people know; Wm. M. Frisbee, Com. In 1918-19 after a bitter loss to Walter Whitacre and L.C. Burnham in 1916-17 and Larry Sackett first Com. In 1906, who by the way introduced my Ruth & me on his catboat "*Sally Jane*," were both determined that I would be in 1920 the youngest Commodore in any ILYA affiliated Yacht Club. They based this on my active racing of Bill Frisbee's catboat and Frank Mooney's iceboats as early as 1914. Also my early enthusiasm for racing boats.

This was at the tender age of 18 but I had gumption enough to know that even in those informal days I was not mature enough to run an active Yacht Club. I had for some time represented the club at Algonac for the launching and at Detroit for the races. Chris Smith was a member of BLYC and expected our support. Several times I had to rush home and polish a "red lead" catboat bottom (No pot(?) lead or dry sailing allowed) or race one of the Panthers in a B.L.Y.C. season race.

Even though I declined, they were persistent and I was called into the Annual Meeting covered with grease and grime after just pulling a 5 ¼" x 7" scored cylinder of *Panther II's* Hall Scott engine.

They put it to me again and I was so upset that I could hardly talk. Again I said I couldn't but that I would run all their races both sail & power.

I was just in the right place at the wrong time and they began to understand. Larry Sackett agreed to take my place with a second term, 14 years after his term of 1st Commodore of B.L.Y.C. and I went back to "Panther II" and L.K. Brown's catboat "Bobcat" that we were to go after the Taft Cup with.

We moved to Kentucky in 1922 where I was a founding member of the Ashland Yacht Club and its second Com. at age 21. We saw little of Buckeye Lake except for yearly iceboating as we had begun to spend our summers at Put-in-Bay and raise a family. In fact for several years we entered "Cat's Paw" from BLYC every other year until my partner who did not belong to B.L.Y.C. objected as we were both members of P.I.B.Y.C. of which I became the first off island Com. in 1952 after years of local commercial rule.

What this is all leading up to; I would in my "declining years" like to have my ILYA picture (enclosed) hung in the old lounge (which I saw built) along with Ed Wolfe's (I was one of his ILYA Judges in 1937) also in company with Gus Schell who I believe will readily agree that I did have more than a little to do with him becoming a BLYC Commodore of the Interlake.

If agreeable I would expect to pick up the tab for mounting and framing with a suitable brass plaque..

Whatever comes of this, I will be forever grateful for my Honorary Perpetual Membership in my favorite Yacht Club where I cut my teeth on catboats, iceboats, and what Chuck called "anti"speed boats and we shall continue to fly the BLYC burgee on "UNADILLA" for as many Junior Race Weeks as I am around.

Regards and best wishes,

Frank H. Miller

Transcribed by P/C Steve Harris, BLYC Historian, January 2016