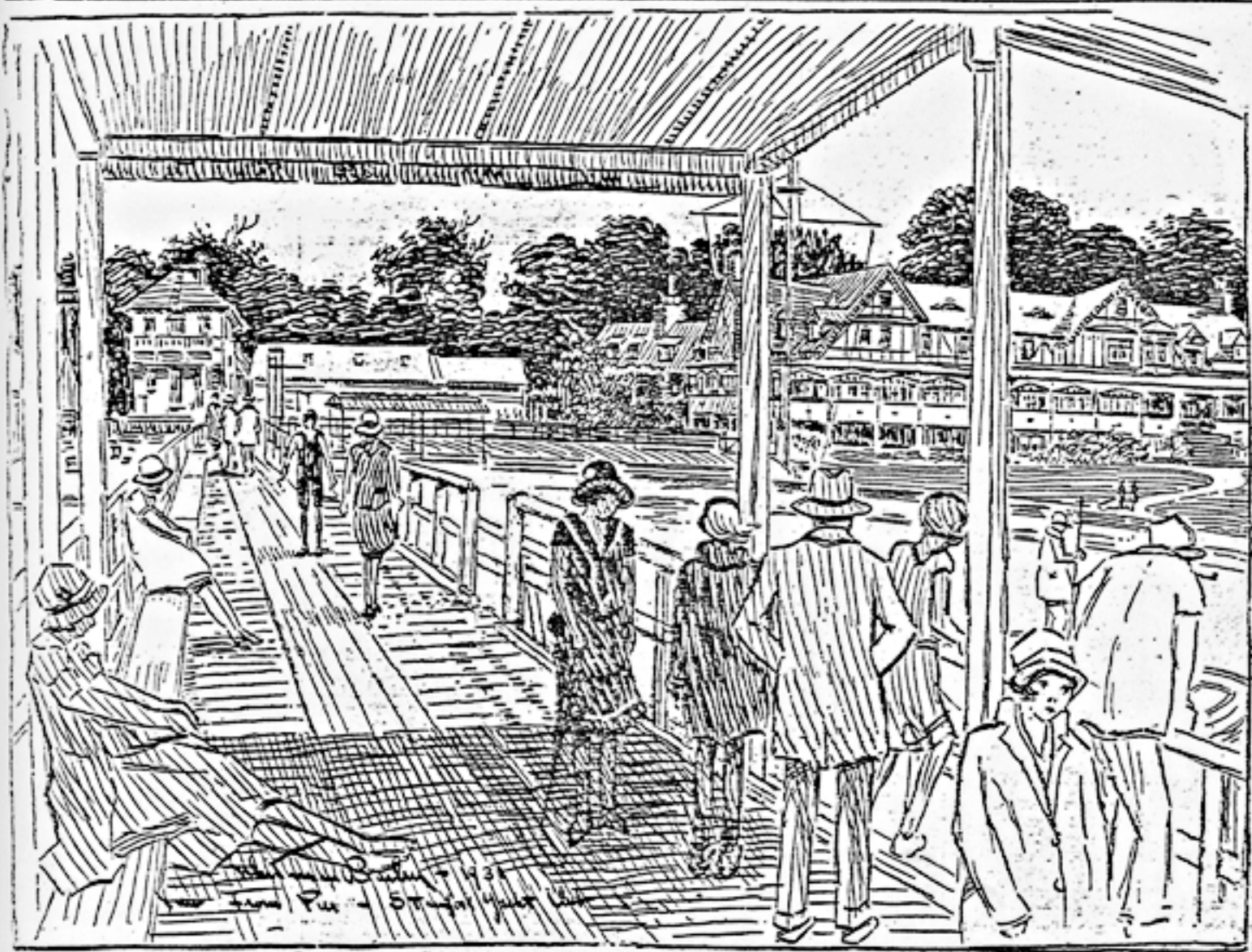


ARTIST'S VIEW OF STAMFORD YACHT CLUB FROM PIER June 13, 1931



In the year 1891 a group of prominent citizens of Stamford purchased a tract of land, containing about four acres, on the west side of Shippan point, on which they decided to build a club house. After many years of remarkable expansion this early effort to further the yachting interests of Stamford has developed into the present Stamford Yacht Club.

The first building, very simple in design, had a delightful background of many tall beautiful trees. It was three stories in height, counting the two large former windows in the roof, and its two spacious balconies, faced

the wide expansion of blue water.

The formal opening of this club house took place on the 25th of July, 1891. William A. Lottimer was made commodore; Samuel Fessenden, vice-commodore; Schuyler Merritt, rear-commodore; John V. Hecker, treasurer; C. Cooper Clark, secretary; Henry P. Geib, M. D., fleet surgeon, and J. Frank Wardwell, also a treasurer. From all accounts the opening reception was a most attractive affair, to which many of the prominent families of Stamford came as guests.

In the Summer of 1892 the property was further enlarged by

the purchase of the adjacent lot and cottage that were owned by Frank H. Hoyt. This land gave space for a hundred and fifty foot dock and also room for more bathing houses and driving sheds. An important feature of the club then, and it remains the same to this day, was that when it came to the general life of sports and pleasures, such as yachting, bathing, tennis courts, croquet grounds, concerts and receptions, equal facilities were given to the families of the members of the club. There are a number of us who can still vividly remember some of those

early yachts that used to cruise about the harbor—the Pocahontas, the Eclipse commanded by Samuel Fessenden, and the schooner yacht, Syph.

Gradually various changes and additions were made to the original building, but one bitter cold night, in January, 1914, with the thermometer registering six below zero, the first Stamford Yacht Club was destroyed by fire and the strong wind carried the sparks for long distances. Out of the ashes, however, arose the present club house, one of the finest in New England.

Whitman Bailey