

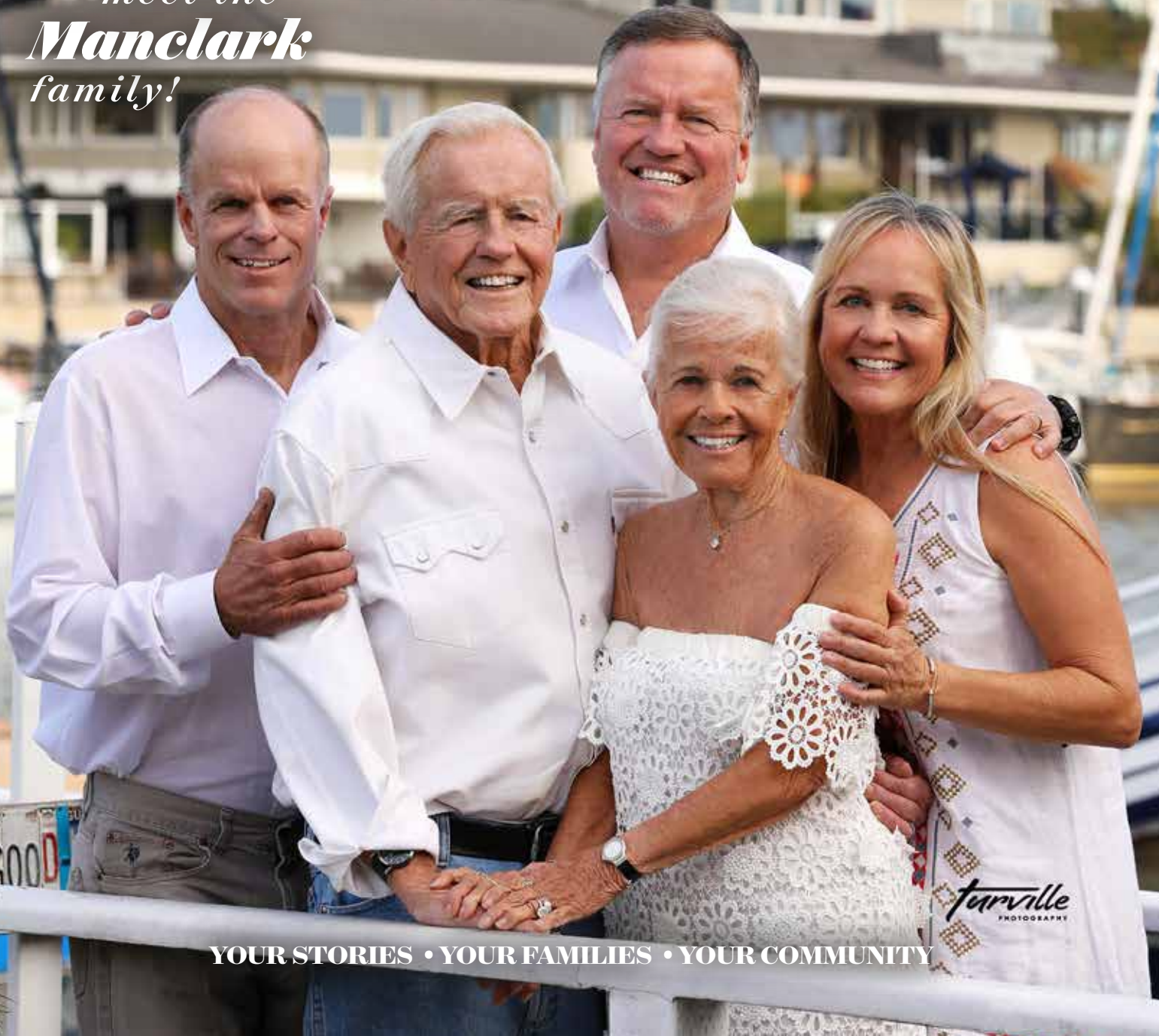
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Photo/Captions Credit: Beckner, Sawyer Collections; Paul Wormser. Courtesy Sherman Library · By Pete Weitzner – Co-Producer, “The Golden Age of Newport Harbor”



Elegance Afloat: *Yachts from a Bygone Era*

Museum Teams with Sherman Library on New Exhibit



Two of Newport’s top cultural institutions are sailing together on a definitive Newport Harbor exhibit.

“Elegance Afloat: Yachts from a Bygone Era” went live in Mid-March at Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach. The photographs are courtesy

of Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar.

“Exciting to collaborate with Sherman, Executive Director Tiffany Pepys said. The public benefits.”

The exhibit is an homage to the period starting in 1935 when a fully dredged harbor allowed for larger yachts. The boats are famous, their owners more so. A sampling:

- Galatea – Owned by Jascha Heifitz, virtuoso violinist of the 20th century. Heifitz belonged to Newport Harbor Yacht Club, kept Galatea here from 1935 to 1938.
- Santana – Commissioned by William L. Stewart, President of Union Oil Company, launched in 1935. Stewart sold Santana to actor Dick Powell, who sold her to Humphrey Bogart. Bogart raced Santana, winning the race around San Clemente Island three years running.
- Martha – Owned by actor James Cagney. Cagney kept Martha docked at Collins Island, which he owned. In 1943, Cagney sold Martha, as the Coast Guard used the island as a base during World War II.

- Chubasco – Bought in the late 1950s by Arnold D. Haskell, founder, Sherman Library & Gardens. Nephew Donald sailed Chubasco to victory in the 1959 Transpac race from Newport Beach to Honolulu. The ship became a fixture in Newport Harbor.

There’s more. The 161-foot Goodwill, one of the largest civilian yachts on the Pacific Ocean, commissioned for the Spalding sporting goods family. The Navy also took over the Goodwill during World War II. “Very common for a number of these ships,” Pepys Hoey said.

Eventually, the Goodwill was owned by a group of Newport Beach investors including Ralph Larrabee. Goodwill and Larrabee came to a tragic end when she ran aground off the coast of Mexico on May 25, 1969, with no survivors.

Going Up

The museum has bolstered another collaboration, with the main branch of the Newport Beach Public Library, which features eight exhibits including most recently the 1953 Boy Scout Jamboree and the Bob and Sharon Lambert Vintage Postcard Collection.

“A lot of newness also going up in the gallery,” Pepys Hoey added – beyond the joint yacht exhibit. The Gallery will be featuring new artists, including woven glass and a colorful umbrella exhibit.

“We got you covered,” Pepys Hoey said.

Visit Balboa Island Museum Newport Beach – explore the “Elegance Afloat” exhibit and discover Newport Harbor’s rich history. Check the website for hours. Free general admission. Become a member. balboaislandmuseum.org/become-a-member/