HISTORY & TRADITIONS



The TEMPEST. Photo by Bill Aitkins.

FAREWELL TO A FLAGSHIP

by Hibbard E. Williams

n Saturday, October 5, 1996, the yacht TEMPEST went aground on the bar at the entrance to Tomales Bay, ending her glorious career as one of the great yachts of the St. Francis Yacht Club and of San Francisco Bay. Her owner and captain, Staff "Hal" K.E. Commodore Hallikainen and her crew were quickly and safely rescued by a superb USCG team with assistance from the Sonoma County Sheriff's helicopter.

Few Club members have not encountered the TEMPEST and her skipper, as they both have been so much a part of Club events for more than 20 years. Every year the TEMPEST. with the current commodore and staff commodores on board, led the St. Francis Yacht Club flotilla on Opening Day. Nearly every year, she carried many Club members and guests to the annual Some of the best Stag Cruise. domino players in the Club fought it out on the TEMPEST'S game table in her pilot house. She was a frequent spectator boat for numerous Club sponsored regattas, offering many members the chance to see, close-up, some of the best racing San on

Francisco

Bay. And

the

visited the Club in the

Norway, Olaf V,

of

when

King

TEMPEST was truly a queen of the seas.

There was something remarkable about the collaboration between this noble yacht and her gracious captain and owner. They were of course, inseparable as Hal did live on board. But beyond that was a complementarity that most quickly recognized a style, a grace, a strength, a stability that was more than just the sum of two parts. That makes the loss of the TEMPEST that much more difficult, certainly for

Hal, but indeed for all of us who knew her and who know Hal.

The TEMPEST will be missed by all who knew her. She was a great ambassador for the St. Francis Yacht Club - a symbol of the best in yachting and in cruising. Those of us who know Hal can't wait to see her successor. In Hal's own words, "Hölykn Kölkyn" to another day on a new TEMPEST. That's cruising!

> Hal Hallikainen relaxing after a day of cruising. Photo by Sara Simmons.

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1980s, it was the TEMPEST that gave

him the tour of the Bay - which

seems so appropriate since the