# Boat Storage, 1949

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OPEN HOUSE — The New Watertown Yacht Club was an "open house" this week-end as members dedicated their club house on the banks of the Charles. Left to right — William T. Clark, treasurer; Robert M. Kellaway, vice commodore; Eliot F. Rogers, commodore; John J. Keene, rear commodore; Charles A. Stevenson, secretary.

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reveal a pattern of steady attack. One year will have references to "grading and rolling", the next will have references to "rolling" (spreading oil on compacted soil was considered good dust control practice at that time), and the next will refer to paving portions of the property. Only oblique references are made to tree removal (one secretary notes in his minutes a request to remove mention of a previously existing tree from his earlier minutes ). We suspect that the lot was cleared in an informal fashion, as conditions warranted.

The lot was cleared and leveled for storing boats, plain and simple, although we can read one comment that "more non-boat owning members benefited from paving the lot than boat owners". This comment probably was part of some argument over an assessment for money (dues were relatively lower in those days, but assessments were common).

As mentioned earlier, boats have winter stored for many years prior to the formation of our Club in the same area we store them in today. Many of these boats were as large if not as heavy as those we haul today. The reason the river bank and yard received such scrupulous grading was because the boats were hauled over the banks. Boat owners had cradles similar to the ones we use today (generally the same size and style, but built of lighter stuff) that were pulled out of the water tied onto a heavy steel sledge (heavy to allow it and the cradle to sink). An alternative to the sledge was a heavy mat, used to ease the surface of the bank.



Boat storage on the banks.