

OBITUARIES

Edward M. Crosby

Most of Osterville and many from surrounding villages were saddened last week to learn that Edward M. Crosby lost his fight against kidney failure and died on Wednesday, August 22, at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston.

In Eddie's 43 years he set high goals for himself and was remarkably successful in attaining them. People who knew him even casually found in him a friend; those who were dearest to him found in him all a family could wish for.

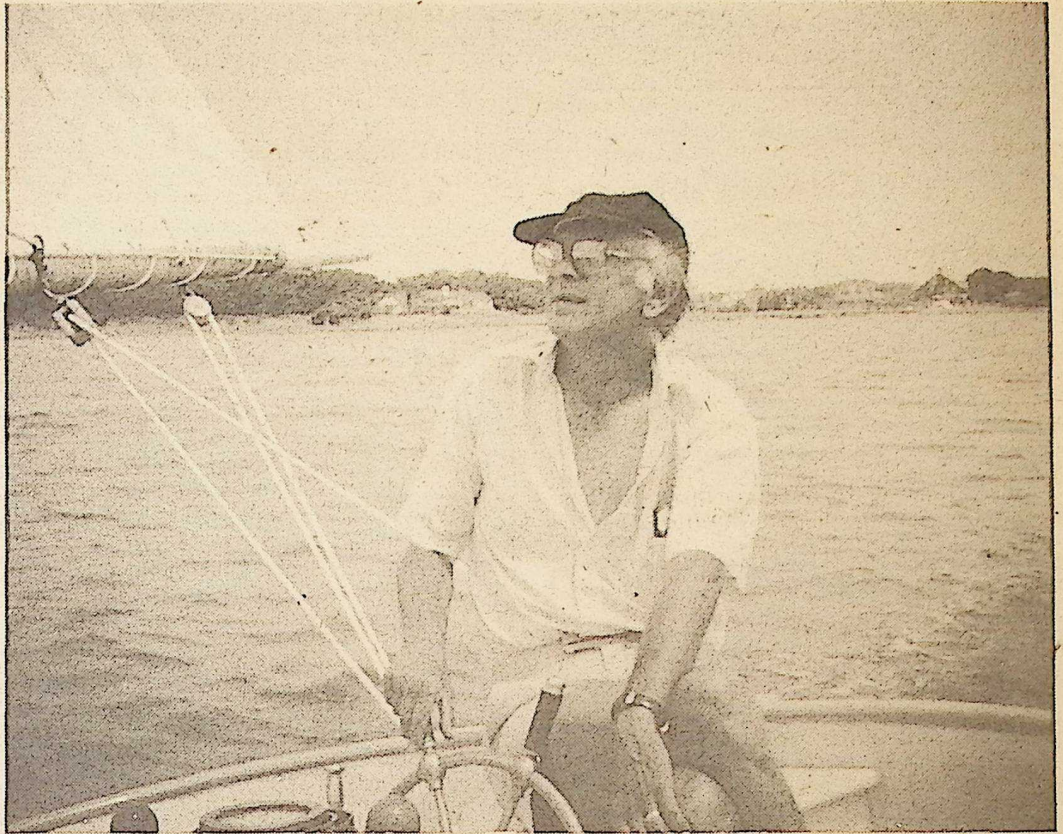
As a boy growing up in his father's boatyard, he found his future vocation and avocation. Here his love of boats and the water were nurtured; here he made his first friends. Before graduating from Barnstable High School in 1954, he attended Admiral Farragut Academy at Toms River, N.J., and later attended Brown University. Eddie made more friends while going to school. In 1956, at the age of twenty years, he shipped as first mate aboard the YANKEE; he stayed with that sailing ship through her last around-the-world cruise, and left her in 1959 to return to Osterville and work with his father and brother in Chester A. Crosby & Sons, Inc., where he was corporate treasurer. When he signed off the YANKEE, he had added to his store of friends.

Early in his career he operated a sailing charter with the schooner IDA K. and at one time ran a string of lobster pots in Osterville waters. More people became friends with Eddie Crosby.

A music lover and an accomplished pianist, he formed his own band while still in high school. Winters, when the bays were frozen up, he and some of his friends raced iceboats on Wequaquet Lake. He held membership in the Catboat Association, the Mystic Seaport Association, the Small Boat Association, and the Osterville Historical Society. Formerly, he had served on the advisory board of Cape Cod Bank and Trust Company. Wherever Eddie came in contact with others, he made of them his friends.

Four years ago, or thereabouts, Eddie's beloved family learned he'd been stricken with kidney disease, an outgrowth of the diabetes he'd contended with since his youth. It wasn't long before his friends heard of the new threat to his life. Such a secret can't be kept by a man who's always been active, who's been building wooden boats with his own two hands as long as all who know him can remember, who must now spend many hours each week hooked up to a dialysis machine; not when that man has the number of friends Eddie did.

And he wasn't getting better; surgery followed for a kidney transplant, but the donated organ was rejected. Despite



The joy in having had a friend

the gravity of his condition, Eddie continued building boats; he had a steam engine and a new boat under construction when he died.

Eddie leaves his parents, Chester A. and Ida (Kittila) Crosby, Sr.; he leaves his wife, Jean (Murphy) Crosby, and his three children, Edward M., Jr., Karen E., and Jennifer M. Crosby; he leaves a brother, Chester A. Crosby, Jr., all of

Osterville; he leaves a large extended family and a host of friends... so many that at the services held Saturday morning at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, hundreds of people stood outside, unable to enter the crowded building.

He leaves everyone with precious memories and a sense of deep loss, but he leaves joy, as well: the joy of having had a friend in Edward M. Crosby.

TO THE MANY FRIENDS OF ED CROSBY,

Since it is impossible for the family to know who attended Eddie's funeral and shared our grief, I find this letter the only way we can begin to show our deep appreciation and thanks.

To those who had to stand both inside and outside the church during the service, to those who waited in the long line at the funeral home, and to those who were in vehicles and were inconvenienced by the funeral procession to the cemetery, we extend our apologies and appreciate your patience.

We were overwhelmed by the number of people at the funeral service and extend to the Town of Barnstable Police Department our thanks and commend them for their most efficient handling of the situation.

Everyone's prayers strengthened us and to know that so many cared has made our loss much easier to bear.

We are deeply grateful to all.

For the whole family,
Sincerely,

Chester A. Crosby, Jr.