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Cutts & Case boatyard ready to celebrate 50 years

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By David Everman deverman@stardem.com

This is a special year for Cutts & Case.

The boatyard, with a driveway on Tilghman Street in Oxford, has its 50th birthday this year.

Edmund Cutts — better known as “Eddie Sr.” — and John Case bought the yard from longtime Oxford boatbuilder Ralph Wiley in 1965.

Eddie Sr. was a former Grumman engineer who had built a boat in his New York backyard as a labor of love, and came to the attention of John Case, an IBM executive with a love of sailing and friends in the boat brokerage business. Case encouraged Eddie Sr. to join him in a new enterprise.

“They decided to form a partnership and decided to get a boatyard,” said Edmund Cutts Jr., now president of the boatyard and known, of course, as “Eddie Jr.”

“John was wealthy, and my dad did the working side of it. He was a great partner to my dad,” he said.

Eddie Sr. bought out Case’s interest in the 1980s, Eddie Jr. said.

While Eddie Jr. is president, his brother Ronnie is vice president. The two are hands-on executives, though. “We both do actual construction and engineering of things, and make specialized parts,” Eddie Jr. said.

Their sister, Linda Featherman, lives at the boatyard.



PHOTO BY DAVID EVERMAN

cutts_ronnieandboat

Ronnie Cutts, son of Ed Cutts Sr., stands by a boat his father built which has come back to the Cutts & Case yard for a refit. The crew at the yard is always on the lookout to spot a boat that’s coming back home.



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“We’ve all ended up staying there on the property or coming back to it,” Eddie Jr. said. “It’s kind of like a family farm.”

Eddie Sr. remained involved in the daily operation of the yard until his death in 2009.

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"I do miss him an awful lot," Eddie Jr. said. "When you work with someone like that pretty much your whole life, it really takes an adjustment when he's gone. It's still a work in progress."

Once the weather warms and boaters start getting out on the water, the boatyard will begin to sponsor celebratory events to mark the anniversary.

However, friends can read about Eddie Sr. and the boatyard in "Ed Cutts: Designer, Boatbuilder, and 'Cutts Method' Inventor," written by Wayne Brown and published in 2014. The book is in stock at Mystery Loves Company bookstore in Oxford.



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





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