

# There's Still Plenty of Room at Fair's Marina

## But Boat Owners Must Reserve It, They Are Told

By STEVE CADY

The operators of the World's Fair Marina are worried by what they call "two basic misconceptions" about the new multimillion-dollar facility.

Many boat owners, they fear, believe that:

¶Dock and mooring space at the 240-acre site already has been booked solid for the season, making further applications for berths a waste of time.

¶Any boatman who wants to "go to the Fair" in the family cruiser or runabout will be able to do so, whenever he wishes, by simply roaring up to the anchorage, dropping the hook and yelling, "Here I am, catch the line, I'm coming ashore."

The facts, a spokesman for the marina said the other day, are that there is still plenty of space available, but it's all by reservation only. In other words, boat owners can't just pop in unannounced.

### Mooring Total 500

This applies to the 500 moorings that will be maintained off the marina in Flushing Bay as well as to the 365 dock-side slips. To regulate traffic and discourage gate-crashers, a 68-foot picket boat will be kept on permanent duty in the bay by the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

"Everything has to be by reservation," said William C. Crane Jr., the president of the group that will operate the installation, Marinas of the Future, Inc. "But the reservation situation is positively not hopeless."

July is the "big problem," with virtually no openings, and August is nearly as tough, Crane said. But there is plenty



Rendering of administration building for World's Fair Marina, which is scheduled to be completed during June

of space available for April, May, June and September.

"The important thing for boat owners to remember is to list alternate dates when they write in for reservations," he said.

Applications, incidentally, should be sent to World's Fair Marina, Northern Boulevard, Corona, N.Y.

Rates are based on the overall length of the boat. For a season, it's \$13 a foot at the dock and \$5 a foot at a mooring, which includes 24-hour launch service. On a monthly basis, the rates are \$5.40 a foot for a slip and \$2.70 a foot for a mooring. Transients who

plan to stay less than a month will pay 10 cents a foot a day.

With the big rush not expected to start until around June 15, the marina is still a long way from completion. No attempt is being made to get it into full-scale operation for the official opening of the Fair April 22.

Only about 25 boats are at the marina now, all of them berthed at the L-shaped pier originally built for the 1939-40 New York World's Fair. This structure's longer dock measures 700 feet and its shorter dock 400 feet. Both are in excellent condition.

The major new dock con-

struction consists of two networks of floating fiber-glass slips called Complex A and Complex B. They will be completed in reverse order—Complex B by the end of April, Complex A sometime in May.

They will be put together like a jigsaw puzzle, according to Crane. For example, the floats are being built in New Jersey.

The marina's main administration building, which will house a 300-seat restaurant, is not expected to be completed before the middle of June. Pilings have only recently been sunk, and the foundations are being dug.

One of the features of the administration area will be a 2,000-car parking lot, where shuttle busses will carry boat owners to and from the Fair if they don't care to walk the short distance. Besides the restaurant (Brass Rail), the building will have a coffee shop, an outdoor cafe and a cocktail lounge.

The most noticeably complete part of the new construction is a 4,000-foot-long breakwater, or quay, that juts into Flushing Bay from LaGuardia Airport. Officials of the marina are confident it will provide ample protection for the boats in the yacht basin.