



Editor: F. R. Crevier, Algonac, Mi. 794-3466. . . . Bus. Office: Marysville, 97 Gratiot, 364-6362

Forest Fire Program Sept. 19th

"PROTECTOR" LAUNCHING AT MARINE CITY SEPT 5th WILL BE SIDE SHIP AFFAIR

WHISTLES WILL BLOW AND BELLS
WILL RING AGAIN AT THE McLOUTH
YARDS. A STEAMBOAT LAUNCH

FIRST SIDE SHIP LAUNCH IN THE RIVER
DISTRICT IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE
PRESENT CENTURY

Sixty-three years seem like a long time
to finally complete the construction of a
ship. but that was what it took! You
will have an opportunity on Saturday, Sep-
tember 5, at the McLouth Yards at Marine
City to see the launch of the United States
Shipping Board Tug PROTECTOR. The
launch is scheduled for two in the afternoon
(concluded on page four)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED FOR OUR NEW PILOT HOUSE

WORK ON PILOTHOUSE INTERIOR
WILL START EARLY THIS FALL

The turn of the century Great Lakes pi-
lothouse interior will be under construc-
tion early this fall with a dedication plan-
ned for some time in January, 1982, if the
ambitions of Lake Huron Lore Marine So-
ciety are accomplished. This pilothouse,
taken from the picturesque days of high
varnish, when our Great Lakes ships and
those around the world were masterpieces
of the wood craftsman's art, will contain
the instruments of control and navigation
of that day. It has been felt for some time
(Continued on page 2)

HURON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AND COUNTY RED CROSS WILL JOIN
IN PROGRAM ON TRAGIC EVENTS

One hundred years ago last week the Thu-
mb area stood devastated. . . it must have
had the look of what we might expect in nu-
clear warfare! Remember that it was Sep-
tember, most of the crops had been harve-
sted. . . and in what we would probably cla-
ss as poverty today, people were not in a
bad fix for the approaching winter. There
was still some timber in the area to work
on during the wintermonths. . . when a bla-
ck cloud came out of the west. . . at night a
flaming horizon indicated that trouble was
approaching on a searing west wind. . . af-
ter several days of this everything was go-
ne. . . crops, livestock, orchards, homes,
(concluded on page 3)

SHIPS AND ARTIFACTS FIND HARBOR
IN BIRTHPLACE OF A PROMINENT
LAKE HISTORIAN AND CAPTAIN

The models of the five vessels of which
Capt. H. C. Inches was skipper are now in
the Lee M. Cooper Marine Gallery of the
Museum of Arts and History. The captain
was that. . . but he was also a modeler of
wide repute. . . and he was probably far
and away the greatest promoter for saving
our artifacts and historical documents and
making them popular that the Great Lakes
ever produced. There is good reason for
his collection to be here, for the captain
was born in Port Huron and was in Algo-
nac throughout his boyhood.

In the afternoon of the opening of the 16th
Annual Marine Show. . . "Models and Their
(Continued on page two)

EDITORIAL

DOROTHY.....

Ever since our first treasurer, Laura, fled the country for the sunny south... without our funds I will say, Dorothy Wallin has been on the job. Dorothy missed very few of our meetings and always was there with a receipt book in hand to collect the dues and receive the money for tickets for the various functions. I never knew such devotion to duty, when she did not feel well or it was a bad night she was there on the job... perhaps her ancestry had something to do with it, her maiden name was McKay and she owns McTavish a delightful terrier.

With the ever growing membership and an increase in duties and with family health problems Dorothy asked that someone else take the job. Our thanks go to you Dorothy for the years that you took good care of the job.... the membership appreciates it gal!..... Editor.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED FOR NEW PILOT HOUSE

(concluded from page 1)

that the navigation instruments and controls that have been accumulated by the members of Lake Huron Lore and placed in the museum, should be assembled and located where they can be seen and operated in their proper positions. The new pilothouse took its first step two years ago when Pat Labadie, curator of the Corps of Engineers Marine Museum, Duluth, Minn., said that they had the wood liner materials for a pilot house, or at least a start toward them, along with other materials that would be available to furnish the new pilothouse.

This past spring we got the wood materials down from Duluth. In the meantime we have been able to accumulate backing materials and the support lumber needed for the project by donations. As all of this material is no longer milled and we are looking for hardwood moulding, "ceiling" material, four inch with center bead, that was commonly used for room interior finish during the latter part of the last century. If any of the members know of anyone that is going to demolish a house please let us know, in time, so that we can remove the same.

Any interior wood trim, such as bookcase doors, interior trim of all kinds, doors, etc. In Port Huron call Steve Williams at the museum, in Marine City, Walter M. Smith, 765-8016; St. Clair, Capt. Ted Richardson, 329-3946; in Algonac, Frank Crevier, 794-3466.

Funding for the project will come from donations of those interested in preserving our Great Lakes Heritage and the Lake Huron Lore Memorial Fund. Anyone who is interested in making a contribution to The Lake Huron Lore Memorial Fund or who would perhaps consider doing so at some future time may contact the Co-Ordinating Director, Frank Crevier, 365 Dixie Blvd., Algonac, Mich., 794-3466. We will be glad to meet with you at the Museum of Arts and History, 1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron, at your convenience, and show you what has been done and what we have planned for the future, to preserve our maritime tradition. Any and all discussions will be in strictest confidence if desired.

SHIPS AND ARTIFACTS FIND HARBOR IN BIRTHPLACE OF A PROMINENT LAKE HISTORIAN AND CAPTAIN

(concluded from page one)

Modelers" on July 12, Mr. Robert Inches and Mrs. Inches; he is also a modeler, arrived with the five vessels of the Interlake Fleet, and artifacts that belonged to the captain.

His memory lives on in his work, for he was constantly at it.... preserve the past and keep the record straight for the future.

He traveled around the lakes after his retirement from sailing always preaching a gospel of.... preserve the record so that future historians have the correct basic facts. It is with this thought in mind that Lake Huron Lore is attempting to preserve his picture collection and make it available to authors and historians, and to compile the news items and Customs House records that deal with the early history of shipping in the river district and Lake Huron. Lake Huron Lore wishes to make a public "thanks" to Mr. Robert Inches for his generosity.

Even if the show is over drop in and see the vessels and the artifacts.

**PRESIDENT OF THE CORPORATION OF
LAKE HURON LORE MAKES APPOINT-
MENTS TO FILL VACANCIES**

The president of the corporation of Lake Huron Lore Lee M. Cooper called a board meeting in May to fill vacancies in the offices:

President; Lee M. Cooper
V-President: Ellsworth Lindsay
Secretary: Catherine Richardson
Treasurer: Edith Hoyer
Trustees: Frank Crevier, Ted Richardson, Walter Smith and Jean Tabor.
Co-ordinating director: Frank Crevier.

JOHN C. DUNCAN MARINE COLLECTION

**LAKE HURON LORE HAS MADE AVAIL-
ABLE TO THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND
HISTORY THESE NEGATIVES**

One of the pleasant surprises this summer was the permission to copy the John C. Duncan collection of ship and harbor pictures. Some of the newer members may not be too well acquainted with this honorary life member of ours, but should get to know him. He is a gem among lake historians. He is an expert on past shipping on the Great Lakes and a person well versed in marine lore. He is in regular attendance at meetings when his health permits, and a delightful person.

Members Ralph Roberts of Saginaw and Capt. Ted Richardson have made negatives of his collection. The original picture collection we hope will be kept up to date by the members of his family and the interest continues on for many generations.

The list has been published and will be sent to anyone sending a self addressed stamped envelope. Address: Museum of Arts and History, 1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron, 48060, Attention: Duncan Collection. A copy of the list is being mailed to each member of Lake Huron Lore with this issue of Lightship.

Thank you John, for sharing with those of us who are interested in preserving the maritime interest of the lakes. . . . Editor.

LAKE HURON LORE MARINE

FLAGS

**ARE NOW ON ORDER AND WILL
BE RECEIVED SHORTLY.
THEY WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT
CHRISTMAS PRESENT.**

They are professionally made by a flag manufacturer and carry the black HURON lightship flanked by the L to the right and left. They are 12 x 18 of nylon construction reinforced corners, Brass grommets and very appropriate for boat or home use.

Mail your check for \$15 to the business office, 97 Gratiot Ave., Marysville, Mich.

Another idea, mail a check for \$100 for a life membership to the same place and receive a FREE FLAG.
**FLY THE LAKE HURON LORE FLAG
ON YOUR BOAT OR HOME!!!!!!!**

FOREST FIRE PROGRAM ON SEP. 19 (Continued from page one)

and even parts of the family that did not manage to survive. I am writing this from the eyewitness accounts of the Port Huron Times of those days.

The first relief came from Port Huron, by passenger steamer, and tugs. The first things dispatched were food clothing and a load of coffins

For the first time in history the American Red Cross went into action. . . . but we will let Paul Soini, Times Herald columnist for "Huron Happenings" tell the story. The Huron County Historical Society has prepared a program commemorating the tragic event, which Paul narrated. But for this evening it will be told by live narration . . . with some insight into what Paul's country went through a hundred years ago.

The St. Clair County Chapter of the American Red Cross will participate in the program and be represented by Mr. Tippie, will briefly outline the work of the Red Cross since the local chapter was founded about the time of World War I.

"PROTECTOR LAUNCHING"
AT MARINE CITY WILL BE
A SIDE SHIP AFFAIR

(continued from page one)

and is being sponsored by the Great Lakes Society for the Preservation of Side Ship Launching. That august body will meet for lunch at 11:30 in the Riviera Restaurant on Water Street at the ferry dock, in the city prior to the launch. Membership in the society is open to all who are interested in seeing the thrill of a life time, the big splash of a modern lake freighter. If you wish to become a member secure one of the applications which are available in Marine City at the McLouth Yards, or in the Museum of Arts & History, 1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron.

Let us go back to the 63 years for construction of the PROTECTOR. I quote Rev. Peter Van Der Linden, from "Telescope" 1976.... "In 1918 the McLouth Yard contracted to build nine wooden tugs for the United States Shipping Board from plans similar to the other wood tugs built on the coast during World War I. (I say similar, for S. C. McLouth and his naval architect, had to develop their own plans almost from scratch.) Three hulls were launched but none were completed because of the cessation of hostilities over seas. Six of the hulls were not started but the materials were in the yards when the contracts were cancelled. After much controversy and litigation following the cancellation... Sydney accepted a cancellation at a decided loss. It was this disaster that in all probability hastened his untimely death on September 22, 1923 of heart failure."

The three ships became Peerless No. 1, Peerless No. 2, both cement barges, but one developed into the beautiful tug that they were all intended to be, the GARGANTUA, always in Canadian Register.

We now come up to the present, or one year ago.... Ed Burch of Clay Township, started what he called his dream ship, the PROTECTOR. She is a beautiful model, constructed to the scale of the drawings, and exactly modeled with the exception of her electronic controls. Ed built her hull, engine, boilers, pumps, steering gear, and propellor. Here he took the only exception from the original plans. in order

LAKE HURON LORE
MEMBERSHIP IS A BARGAIN NOW!
1982 DUES WILL GIVE YOU TWO
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS THIS YEAR
Family..... \$8
Single..... \$5
Life(one Person)..... \$100
Applications Available:
Marysville: Business office 97 Gratiot
St. Clair: Capt. Ted Richardson
Marine City: Edith Hoyer
Algonac: Frank Crevier

to cut down on the electronic controls, he cast the buckets and made a feathering propellor, popular on the freighters, where the engine is never reversed and the propellor movement is controlled in the pilot house. She is a beautiful piece of work by an exceptional craftsman, one who is expert in both wood and metal.

Seeing her develop into such a beautiful ship brought the Great Lakes Society for the Preservation of Side Ship Launching into play. In as much as the big splash on the membership certificate is one of the three tugs... it was decided that she was to have a good sendoff into her natural element. Peirce McLouth, owner of the yards where the original was built, and a member of the society was heartily in accord. We searched through the membership of Lake Huron Lore and came up with two capable members, one Robert Lester, of Marine City, the other one was John Clarke of East China. Mr. Lester is a descendent of the family that owned the shipyards under the name of Lester & Roberts, before it was purchased by Sydney C. McLouth. Mr. Lester is a master builder in wood and Mr. Clarke is a naval architect and marine engineer who has been working on a study of side ship launching for several years.

Mr. Clarke designed the wood launchways and Mr. Lester built them. These are as near to the original as photography will permit. We hope that they will find a home in the artifacts of the Museum of Arts and History, and will be used to launch a lot more models of the ships that were built along the St. Clair River, in the future.