

PROGRAM MEETING:  
Saturday, Sept. 18, 7:30pm  
Museum of Arts  
& History

Volume 4, No. 1  
Sept. 1982

# THE LIGHTSHIP



F. R. Crevier, Editor, Algonac, Mi, 313-794-3466. Bus. Off. 97 Gratiot, Marysville, 364-6362

## Fall Program Season Opens September 18th With Bill Luke's Slideshow "Golden Oldies"

TWO SUMMER OUTINGS OF THE WHISTLE DIVISION OF LAKE HURON LORE WILL BE ADDED ATTRACTION FOR EVENING

We are entering the Fall season on the Great Lakes on a rather sombre note perhaps, after a summer of non-ship operations, but it is a time to reflect and remember some of a rapidly dying breed. . . . the steam powered freighter as we have known her all of our lives. Lake Huron Lore board member, Bill Luke, of Birmingham, has prepared this program of his own slides. . . of which he is proud but a bit reluctant to admit, have been taken back into the 1950's. Those beautiful straight deckers, with pilot house and owners quarters up forward, with a mast with real rigging, a long uncluttered deck with a row of hatches leading aft to a round stack, properly sloped with dozens of different stack markings, representing the blueblood families of Great Lakes shipping. . . rather than a fast, streamlined, hard to understand logo of some faroff computerized conglomerate that does not know the 'pointy' end from the 'square end' of a steamboat. Beautiful fantails will be seen that gracefully and efficiently let the water away from the hull. . . although I understand that the fantail, strictly from the fact that water does not slide out very gracefully from under a square box, is beginning to appear more frequently on the Lakes.

### Walter Havinghurst Author Of, "Long Ships Passing" Speaker At Museum On October 2nd

Bill has captured dozens of these ships. . . and it is a program that should not be missed. One reason for saying this is that many have already disappeared from the scene. . . and many of them will never again be seen except in tow on their way to the scrapyard.

Reports come in to your editor that the ports of Toronto and Cleveland are looking like winter layup. . . the Toledo frog pond gains another ship every few days.

Lake Michigan and Lake Superior ports have ships laid up that have not made the first trip this season. Steel production in the United States is down and the European and Japanese mills have taken over along with the auto industry. . . and with no great demand for pellets, the Great Lakes fleet

The members of Lake Huron Lore are invited to hear Walter Havinghurst, author of "LONG SHIPS PASSING" and stories of the Great Lakes, at the Museum of Arts and History, Saturday evening, October 2, at 7:30 p. m. The members of the Museum Guild are sponsoring this program.

Sarah Larsen, president of the Guild extended an invitation to our organization to hear Mr. Havinghurst deliver the talk on "Duluth to Salt Water."

The occasion will be the presentation by the Booth Family of a memorial to the History Department of the museum of an encased copy of the front page of a New York

(cont'd p. 3)

(concluded on page 3)

## Launch Date Set For Oct 21 At Collingwood Shipyards

Word has been received that the launch date for the latest Algoma Central Marine freighter that is being assembled on the ways at Collingwood will be launched on the 21st of October. This is a beautiful time of year in Ontario, when she shows her finest colors.

It is planned that the Museum of Arts and History will sponsor the bus trip to Collingwood. A special rate has been secured for members of the Museum and also the members of Lake Huron Lore. For reservations and details call the museum office at 982-0891. Reservations should be made early as the fall launching trip is the most popular one. Hotel rooms are part of the package deal, along with transportation to and from the launch site. Included in the tour is a stop at a Canadian cheese factory luncheon in historic old Goderich hotel on the courthouse circle. If you have not been there before, this is a delightful old city, patterned on a wheel and spoke lay out. On the return trip after the launch, a stop is

made in Owen Sound at a shipboard restaurant in the harbor. Both of these places serve luncheons at moderate prices.

The Great Lakes Society for the Preservation of Side Ship Launching will be meeting at the Heidelberg Inn for dinner and a program. If you are not already a member of the society it is suggested that you secure your membership certificate before departing Port Huron so it can be presented at the dinner meeting. It is \$5.00 for a life membership, with one dollar per head collected by the Master-at-Arms at each dinner meeting to defray expenses of the evening. For those of you who have been there before, Mrs. Brown will serve her famous buffet supper, and for those who have not been there rest assured that no one ever left hungry. This is \$10(Can

LAKE HURON LORE FLAGS  
MAKE A GOOD CHRISTMAS GIFT  
NOW ONLY \$15.50

Give a flag and family membership for less than \$25. There is no better bargain  
See Edith at next meeting or contact  
Frank Crevier, 794-3466.

## Lighthouse Keepers Ass'n. Conference At Museum Oct. 16

A group of enthusiasts have scheduled an all day conference in the Museum of Arts and History on Saturday, October 16. This organization is called The Lighthouse Keepers Association and it is their aim to form a Lake Huron Chapter. There is probably no place on the Great Lakes where there is such a varied number of light structures, beginning at the upper end of the St. Clair River with the venerable Fort Gratiot Light and the lightship "HURON" on her way up to her station in Lake Huron. Coming on down stream on the Canadian side we find the Stag Island Range, a standard wooden structure from before the turn of the century. Staying on the Canadian side the entrance to Chenale Carte is marked with a pair of modern lights with targets by day and bull's eye intensifiers at night. These were recently erected to replace a pair of lattice diamonds with kerosene lights. The keeper was housed in a brick house nearby. Walpole Island one and two are lights that are uncommon. They are of formed reinforced concrete, built very much like a monument. These have been unattended gas and electric. On the U. S. Side of the South Channel are a series of varied shapes of steel towers. They are so close together that it appears to have been a problem to make them different to avoid confusion. At one time at the end of the South Channel there were four brick lighthouses, three of which had living quarters.

If you are interested in lights and the people who manned them, and would like to attend the conference and visit the Fort Gratiot Light and the HURON. The cost of the conference for the day will be approximately \$20.

For further information and reservations contact Darla & Mike VanHoeey, 23218 Helen, Southfield, Mich. 48034 313-355-3613.

Lake Huron Lore welcomes the new organization into the community and wishes them well and hopes that they will be guided by the red beacon of St. Clair Flats Lower Light!!

## Shipyards Old & New Closed August 20

IT'S GREAT TO SEE THE COMMANDER UP AND ABOUT AGAIN... TAKING DOWN A SUCCESSFUL SHOW..... OUR 17TH.

Lake Huron Lore Marine Society closed one of its most successful shows on August 20. It opened the evening of the 10th of July at a gab-fest reception... an attendance of 256 members and friends proves to your editor that people really enjoy this sort of thing. "SHIPYARDS-OLD AND NEW" was a show of the members and by the members from start to finish. While the Shipbuilders of Collingwood was professionally assembled some of the people in the pictures are members of Lake Huron Lore. We are sorry that the photographer Ursula Heller was not in North America but hard at work in Europe because I think that she tried and succeeded in capturing the thing that co-operation and closeness can achieve.

It was great to have our guests of honor there chatting one on one... Peirce McLouth with (his best looking Grand Daughter) he uses that interchangeably about the one that is present... he really has more than one!.. explaining to a generation that never had seen a wooden commercial laker, how they rotted from the water line to the load line and they were given another decade of usefulness by replacing the rotting timbers. Our naval architect and marine engineer in residence John Clarke was explaining the ways of a side ship launch, using the PROTECTOR II at rest on the launchways built by Robert Lester. When Ed Burch shows up with his steam tug

model builders and lovers of all ages group around immediately to ask how it is done... we believe that there is a hidden desire that lives in most of us to create something... if not full size then in exacting miniature... We have some expert model builders in our organization... the best on the lakes.

Ralph Roberts of Saginaw, in addition researching the project for the Customs District of Huron, furnished a great many of the photographs, mounted them and prepared the chart of the Saginaw River showing the

## BILL LUKE'S "GOLDEN OLDIES" SUBJECT FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING

(concluded from 1)

will probably never return to the days we have seen in the past. These opinions did not come from fleet management but were sentiments expressed by those who should be out manning the ships but instead are drinking coffee along the docks of the lower lake ports.

Darla and Mike VanHoey, our lighthouse historians, and incidentally the parents of the president of the Whistle Division-Lake Huron Lore, Stephanie Van Hoey, will show video tape made at the Cleveland Whistle Blow and if possible we will show the results of the Great Tashmoo Whistle Blow on Labor Day at the River Crab.

---

## HAVINGHURST LECTURE

AT THE MUSEUM

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

(concluded from page one)

paper telling of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, a valuable piece to be added to the period of the Civil War. The memorial is to the late Virginia Hance Booth, who was a member of the museum guild. Mr. Havinghurst is a friend of the family and neighbor when they lived in Oxford, O. Mr. Booth said that Mr. Havinghurst would be glad to autograph copies of his books owned by Lake Huron Lore members.

---

locations of the old yards... no small project. The additional photographs were from the museum collection, William Bates of St. Clair and Eugene Buel of Marine City

The display of County Directories circa 18-88 did not bring in any of the old shipbuilders it did bring up some memories and some of their descendents. Gareth McNab, our oral history interviewer reported interest in the subject and your writer has an appointment in the near future to see some marine artifacts.

Commander Lee M. Cooper took down the entire show and packed it away. Lee has not missed any of the shows and said that he was not going to start on the 17th. It is good to see him about the museum and his recovery from a serious lot of surgery.

# Marine City Lumber Hooker's Boiler Receives Place At East Coast Lifesaving Service Station Museum

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article appeared in The Newport News Daily Press recently and was sent by a former Marine City resident)

Virginia Beach (AP)-The rusted piece of metal that was a landmark and litterbasket for beachgoers regained a bit of pride Thursday as a maritime exhibit of the last of a steamer shipwrecked 76 years ago.

In a clumsy ballet of chains and backhoe, a portion of the steam boiler from the SS GEORGE FARWELL was hoisted on to a cement square outside the Virginia Beach Maritime Historical Museum.

The FARWELL had sailed too close to shore on Saturday night, Oct. 20, 1906, in Stygian darkness, according to news reports, and was driven aground with its cypress timber by the 28 mph winds of a nor'easter.

Since the FARWELL foundered a half a mile off Cape Henry, in an area, "dreaded by mariners," the beach at the Army's Fort Story had reclaimed the boiler until only its top cylinder showed above the sand.

It was the destination for many a beach walker or jogger, a receptacle for soda cans and candy wrappers.

"The institutional memory of it was fast being lost," said Col. John Sprague, commander of Fort Story, which donated the relic to the one year old museum housed in a former Life Saving Station that helped rescue the men of the SS GEORGE FARWELL.

With a complete absence of red tape, the Army's outpost on the Atlantic handed over custody of the last of the FARWELL with a two-paragraph letter that spoke of "preservation and maritime history."

Boardwalk bikers stopped and stared on Thursday morning as the unyielding and unwieldy relic, scarred with the initials of some "H. T." was plopped into place with the help of a bulldozer.

They stared at the corroded cylinder, the green spots and covered with almost an in-

ch of rust and asked, "What's that?"

It is some part of the steam boiler, or perhaps part of the main engine, perhaps part of the water intake system, said the museum's director, retired Adm. Richard Rumble.

It came from what the Norfolk Ledger Dispatch described on Oct. 22, 1906, as a rough-looking tub, "built in 1895 at Marine City, Mich., owned by the J. C. Turner Lumber Co. of New York and carrying 575,000 feet of lumber from Jacksonville, Fla. to New Haven, Conn.

She mired aground "out of range of the life gun," with "the deep sound of the steamer's siren appealing for help that could not be rendered." according to the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

## FALL BUS TOUR TO A SHIP LAUNCH AT COLLINGWOOD

OCT  
21

A DELIGHTFUL TRIP THROUGH  
THE HARDWOOD COUNTRY

THE TOUR INCLUDES A STOP IN  
THE OLD CANADIAN TOWN OF  
GODERICH FOR LUNCHEON

A VISIT TO A CANADIAN CHEESE  
FACTORY

LUNCHEON ABOARD SHIP IN THE  
HARBOR AT OWEN SOUND

A VISIT TO BLYTHE WOOLEN MILL

BUS FARE AND LODGING AT THE  
HEIDELBURG INN, COLLINGWOOD,  
WHERE THE G. L. S. F. T. P. O. S. S. L.  
MEETING WILL BE HELD:

For Museum Members.....\$59.00

For Lake Huron Lore Members \$59.00

Non-members.....\$66.50

(based on double occupancy)

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY

Phone 982-0891 1115 6th Street