

MEETING DATE  
SATURDAY NITE  
MARCH 29TH

VOLUME 1, No. 4  
MARCH 1980

# THE LIGHTSHIP



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## Bow Section of Daniel J. Morrell Discovered . . . . . Machinery Removed From Prop. Indiana is Topic of Larry Coplin Presentation On Twenty-Ninth . . . . .

TWO HUNDRED DIVES WERE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MORRELL FIFTEEN MINUTES OF BOTTOM TIME WAS ALL THAT EACH DIVE PRODUCED IN THE DEEP WATER OF LAKE HURON OFF THE TIP OF THE THUMB.....MACHINERY FROM THE PROP. INDIANA IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS IN LAKE SUPERIOR WATER

Two historic shipwreck events were recorded on the Great Lakes during the past summer. One was on Lake Superior off Crisp Point and the other was closer home on Lake Huron off Grindstone City on the tip of the thumb. These two unrelated events took place years apart and resulted from entirely different causes. The only tie between them was that they were recorded by members of the same team of underwater explorers and photographers. The members of Lake Huron Lore are going to be able to see and hear about these two events the same evening, March 29th. Larry Coplin, Lake Huron Lore member, discovered the forward section of the DANIEL J. MORRELL about seven and one-half miles from the stern section last summer. There was a lapse of several years between the time of discovery of the forward and the after sections of this ship. The nameboard from the pilothouse which graces the fireplace of our Marine Room, through the generosity of Larry and his diving team, is one of the prized shipwreck artifacts of the Museum of Arts and History. Larry's picture story of the MORRELL shows the nameboard intact on the top of the pilothouse as the ship landed on the bottom right side up and was not destroyed.

(concluded on page two)

WORD HAS RECENTLY BEEN RECEIVED THAT MR. COLIN REVILL, MEMBER OF LAKE HURON LORE, HAS RECENTLY BEEN PROMOTED TO SYSTEMS AND PLANNING SUPERINTENDENT AT THE COLLINGWOOD SHIPYARDS. THE MEMBERS OF LAKE HURON LORE WISH TO CONGRATULATE HIM IN HIS NEW POSITION, AND THOSE OF US WHO KNOW HIM SAY.....IT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED TO A NICER PERSON.

\$2 WILL MAKE YOU A LIFE MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SIDE SHIP LAUNCHING. IF YOU LOST YOUR APPLICATION...THERE ARE MORE ON THE DESK!!!!

**"AN EVENING WITH OMAR D. CONGER" APR 12**



**BOW SECTION OF DANIEL J. MORRELL DISCOVERED  
MACHINERY REMOVED FROM PROPELLOR INDIANA IS TOPIC OF  
LARRY COPLIN PRESENTATION ON TWENTY-NINTH (continued from page one)**

The double feature program will also include scenes from the raising of the engine, boiler, propellor, steering quadrant and hardware intact from the hull of the Propellor INDIANA in the deep clear waters of Lake Superior. This was accomplished last summer through the efforts of a great many people and organizations. It all started when Lake Huron Lore member John Steele, Waukegan, Ill, found what turned out to be the oldest example of, a lake propellor driven vessel, complete with an unaltered engine, that has been found to date. The INDIANA, 147' in length, was built at Vermilion, Ohio, in 1848. She sank in 1858 after breaking a propellor blade. Her crew made it ashore near Crisp Point without incident. One hundred and fourteen years later scuba divers Kent Bellrichard, John Steele, and Bill Cohrs located the wreck and filmed it in its original condition. Two Great Lakes historians, Lake Huron Lore member Pat Labadie, curator of the Canal Park Museum, Duluth, Minn., and Dr. Richard Wright of Bowling Green University, Ohio, were interested in the pictures and discussed the find with the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. Soon that organization solicited the assistance of the Corps of Engineers and the United States Navy and the mission was accomplished. The materials were removed on two trucks to Washington, D.C. for restoration. Latest word that has been received is that the artifacts in a restored condition may be put on exhibit late this summer or early this fall. In an interview with John Steele on March 1st, he said that he was going back on the INDIANA as soon as weather permits to secure some additional mechanical equipment for the Smithsonian. It would be nice to see an entire engine room of an early vessel restored.

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## **STARS IN YOUR FUTURE AT COLLINGWOOD**

Several Lake Huron Lore members have inquired recently about becoming members of the Society for the Preservation of Side Ship Launching if they have never seen such a launching. The answer is join up now and see the next side ship launch at Collingwood this coming summer. We report that the design on the certificate of membership is progressing and that they will be ready for distribution by the time of the next launching. In the event that you have not seen a launching join us for dinner the night before the big event and we will present the certificates to those who will see such a spectacle the following morning.

To date no date has been set for the next launch, but as stated, all members of the Society for the Preservation of Side Ship Launching will be notified as soon as the date has been set by the shipyard.

It is very gratifying to note that several more ships have been contracted for side ship launching at Collingwood since the formation of the society.....in true political fashion the society members can be proud that their organization has had such an influence on the situation and that we will be privileged to witness many more splashes at Collingwood.

The following schedule was recently received from the shipyard, courtesy of Mr. Colin Revill: Hull 218, launched Dec. 18, NANTICOKE, 730', CSL, for Nova Scotia service; Hull 219, self unloader, 730', ACR, lake service; Hull 220, Tug POINTE SEPT ILES, 105' Eastern Canada Towing, for Sept Isles service; Hull 221, bulker, 730' this is reconstruction of Halco ship, CARTIERCLIFFE HALL; Hull 222, self-unloader, 730', CSL, for ocean service; Hull 223, bulker, 730', Nipigon Transport for lake service and Hull 224, 730', ACL for lake service. Members can get a lot of stars!!!!



Y O U   A R E   I N V I T E D   T O   A T T E N D

# 'AN EVENING WITH OMAR D. CONGER'

PRESENTED BY THE LAKE HURON LORE MARINE SOCIETY  
AND THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY

SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, at 7:30 p.m.  
IN THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY,  
1115 SIXTH STREET, PORT HURON, MICHIGAN

## P R O G R A M

SHORT SLIDE PROGRAM OF THE VISABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STATE SENATOR  
CONGRESSMAN AND UNITED STATES SENATOR OMAR D. CONGER, OF PORT HURON

"OMAR D. CONGER, THE MAN", BY DR. BRUCE RUBENSTEIN, UNIVERSITY OF  
MICHIGAN, FLINT. DR. RUBENSTEIN IS A FORMER RESIDENT OF PORT HURON  
AND A STUDENT OF THE LIFE OF THE LATE SENATOR.

THE OMAR D. CONGER THAT MANY OF US REMEMBER:

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STMR. OMAR D. CONGER BY EXPLOSION IN BLACK  
RIVER ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 26, 1922: A SHORT SLIDE PRESENTA-  
TION FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE MUSEUM.

" A TRIP TO WALLACEBURG, ONTARIO ABOARD THE OMAR D. CONGER, NARRA-  
TED BY MR. FRANK MANN, WALLACEBURG CITY HISTORIAN.

PRESENTATION OF THE MODEL OF THE STEAMER OMAR D. CONGER BY HER  
BUILDER, MR. HARVEY NISSLEY, GROSSE ISLE, TO THE MARINE COLLECTION  
OF THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY.

T H E   P U B L I C   I S   I N V I T E D   T O   A T T E N D   ! !

## NEW L.H.L. FLAGS

Those members of Lake Huron Lore who have ordered flags will receive them soon after the 15th of April. The lady who runs this flag factory spends her winters in the south and she expects to ship them as soon as she returns. If you desire a flag, which is black and white with the lightship and the letters L...L on either side of the ship for your boat or for your home flag pole this spring, they may be ordered by calling 794-3466. Most of the first order have been spoken for at this time, so get your order in early as they require some lead time. The flags are good quality and workmanship and are \$15 each including taxes and shipping charges.



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WHEN YOU RECEIVE THIS ISSUE OF LIGHTSHIP PLEASE MARK YOUR CAL-  
ENDARS FOR TWO FUTURE DATES YOU HAVE WITH LAKE HURON LORE MAR-  
INE SOCIETY. SATURDAY EVENING, APRIL 12TH, "AN EVENING WITH OMAR  
D. CONGER AND SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 12TH, THE OPENING NIGHT OF  
"OLD CHARTS AND STEAM WHISTLES." HAVE A GREAT SUMMER....EDITOR.

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#### OLD CHARTS AND STEAM WHISTLES

The 12th Annual Marine Show of Lake Huron Lore Marine Society is being assembled slowly and deliberately for this year. Just before Christmas it was decided to use for the 1980 theme "Old Charts and Steam Whistles. We know that there has been navigation on the lake and river since the Indian canoes and the French canoes traveled this way. No charts of either of these people were found. However the French left their place names that exist to this day, so on a modern map we placed these names that trace their routes to the north country.

Following our custom of last year we will again have special guests. Capt. John H. Frumveller will demonstrate navigation, Bill Patterson, his wreck chart and we are hoping to have with us the author of a soon to be published history of the United States Lake Survey. There will be no formal program for opening night....just a rare opportunity to visit with the people who are closely associated with the charts of the Great Lakes.

On the whistle side Walter Brooks has lined up the shaft of the great whistle of the SIDNEY SMITH, one of the museum's prize possessions that has been hidden in the basement these many years. Going to need some brass polishers for this...any volunteers, or must you be drafted??????

Our chief whistle man, Capt. Ted Richardson, ran out of steam in February....but is beginning to build up a slight head again and expects to get to full pressure soon.....so this department will be heard from with a big blast!!!!

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#### DO THE MEMBERS WANT ANOTHER DINNER MEETING???

There have been several of the members asked about another dinner meeting for this year. Several places have been suggested...go back to Wallaceburg, pick a spot on the St. Clair Flats what have you? Some would like to go by boat. It is a dinner for the members. If you have any suggestions give them to the editor in writing at the next meeting or I would be happy to hear suggestions from the floor.

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#### S. H. I. P. S.

Shipwreck History and Inspection Preservation Society was formed last year by a group meeting in Detroit who were interested in the documentation, filming and delineation of shipwreck sites. This material will be made available to historical societies, museums, and educational institutions. The making of these films has become increasingly more expensive each year and it has come to the point where the society has been formed to help defray expenses. The dues are \$5 and Lake Huron Lore highly recommends this enterprise when it is in the hands of people like Larry Coplin and John Steele. Larry will tell you more about it at the meeting on March 29th.

To date the Museum of Arts and History has been the recipient of several artifacts from the Steamer PEWABIC and the DANIEL J. MORRILL through the generosity of these people and Larry comes here each year to show his underwater films without compensation.....other than we take him to dinner at the Coney Island.....I don't really remember who it was but I think it was Bill Patterson told him that was the only place to eat in town..... you have to excuse divers for many of the things they do!