

Volume X No. 2

May 1988

# THE LIGHTSHIP

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Co-editors: Frank & Jean Tabor, 1413 N. River Rd., St. Clair, MI 48079

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Luke's Loggings by...

William J. Luke

"A Salute to the  
Huron Lightship"

With the return of the robins each spring to our Lake Huron Shores, certain other visitations on our marine scene confirm the return of another season. In recent memory, the upbound passage of the Huron Cement steamer S.J. Crapo is our annual harbinger of spring. Such was the case again this mid-March with the Crapo's St. Patrick's Day passage.

In seasons past the reappearance of the familiar "Huron" Lightship was the signal of spring's arrival. From 1893 until August of 1970, the U.S. Lighthouse Service and later the U.S. Coast Guard stationed the "Huron" at the head of Lake Huron Cut, the channel leading from the lake into the St. Clair River.

cont. on page 3 see "Luke's Loggings"



Program Meeting

Thurs., May 19, 1988

at 7:30 P.M.

Museum of Arts & History

1115 Sixth St.

Port Huron, MI

by Malcolm McRae

of Sarnia, Ontario

featuring:

1. The Birchglen's last trip through the ice, transiting the Welland Canal and
2. The Queen Mary's Farewell and new "home" in Long Beach, CA

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"The Seaway Cruise to French Canada" aboard the "South American" presented by the Detroit Marine Historical Society on Apr. 23, 1988 was thoroughly enjoyed by those present. The program had been prepared by Harry Wolf for the 1987 Annual Dinner, but due to his illness and death, was presented this year "complete with music and Harry's inimitable narration."



## In Memoriam

Peirce McLouth

December 12, 1898 - April 17, 1988

We share the sorrow of the family and friends  
of Peirce McLouth, senior local historian and

and long time Lake Huron Lore member and marine supporter.

Memorials may be made to Lake Huron Lore Marine Society, 6533 S. River Rd.  
Marine City, MI 48039 or the Great Lakes Maritime Institute, Dossin Museum,  
Belle Isle, Detroit, MI 48207.

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Astor E. Wallin

October 30, 1906

May 8, 1988

It is with sadness that we express our sympathy to Dorothy on the passing  
of her husband. He was an avid boat watcher and marine buff.

Memorials may be made to Cerebral Palsy, c/o Nancy Anderson, 5801 S. Wash-  
ington, Lansing, MI 48911

## Birth Announcement:

Congratulations to Stephen and Jennifer Williams on the birth of their  
daughter, Ellen Reed, Monday, May 2, 1988. Vital statistics: 6 lbs. 1 oz.,  
21" long. She is doing well and has joined her brother, Ross, 4, at home.

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Update: The former Halco vessels have  
been acquired by the following lines  
and renamed as follows:

Paterson Line:

Quedoc - formerly Beavercliffe Hall

Cartiendoc - formerly Frankcliffe  
Hall

Windoc - formerly Steelcliffe Hall

Canada Steamship Line:

Halifax - formerly Frankcliffe  
Hall

Winnipeg - formerly Cartiercliffe  
Hall

Lemoyne - formerly Maplecliffe  
Hall

Misener Line:

David K. Gardiner - formerly  
Lawrencecliffe Hall

Peter Misener - formerly Otter-  
cliffe Hall

Luke's Loggings - continued from page 1

The first "Huron" was an 80 foot wooden craft, schooner-rigged, built at Toledo by the Craig interests in 1893 as Light Vessel No. 61. She was on station here from 1893 until 1920. The following year, a new "Huron" of 101 feet, built at Muskegon as Light Vessel No. 96, became part of our scene until she was withdrawn in 1934. The writer recalls this vessel as having been painted red, anchored on the east or Canadian side of the channel's upper limit. An uncle of mine, in his youth a summer resident of old Huronia Beach near what is now Lakeside Park, used to describe the lightship's location as about Buoys 3 and 4. In those early days, the "Cut" began over what we know as Corsica Shoal's location.

In 1935, our final "Huron", Lightship No. 103 (later designated by the U.S.C.G. as W A L 526) became our sentinel, a position she held until replaced by a buoy in August of 1970. She was originally a self-propelled steamer, built at Morris Heights, New York in 1921 at a cost of \$126,428.00. Extensively rebuilt in 1949 and converted to diesel, she initially sported a tall, thin stack. Her winter quarters were Detroit's Coast Guard Station at the foot of Mt. Elliot for many years, later changed to our Black River.

At the time of her retirement, the city of Grand Haven almost succeeded in claiming her as their "museum". However, local interests prevailed and she has been affixed to the Port Huron waterfront at Pine Grove Park for the past nineteen years. She was badly vandalized at that site in July of 1972 and since that time has been locked up to assure her safe-keeping.

To those of us who grew up with that lovely view of Lake Huron's sweep and majesty, the familiar silhouette of the "Huron" Lightship is still missed, the horizon somehow shallow without her; her spot out there made even more lonesome with the dramatic decline in general vessel traffic in recent years. On the brighter side, she still is with us, and, hope-  
See Luke's Loggings, page 6

# For Sale:

By Lake Huron Lore Marine Society:  
 -Bells with L.H.L. Logo @ \$10.00 ea.  
 -Hot Pads with Logo @ \$4.00 ea.  
 Please contact Treasurer, Edith Hoyer  
 765-8037 if interested. They will be  
 available at the next meeting.

These items were made and donated to  
 Lake Huron Lore by Bea Sands of Algon-  
 ac, with proceeds to go towards the  
 memorial for the late Frank Crevier.  
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Recipes (as space allows) that keep  
 Great Lakes Steamships afloat!  
 "Rolling Rhubarb Punch"

- 8 cups diced, uncooked rhubarb, not  
peeled
  - 5 cups water
  - 2 cups honey or sugar
  - 6 oranges
  - 3 lemons
  - 1 quart ginger ale, chilled
- Simmer rhubarb in water until quite  
 mushy. Strain and measure liquid into  
 an enamel kettle. Add 1/3 cup of sugar  
 or honey for each cup of rhubarb juice.  
 Stirring over low heat, heat until  
 sugar or honey has dissolved. Cool. Add  
 Strained juice of oranges and lemons.  
 Chill. Before serving, add ginger ale.  
 Serve over ice cubes. Makes 3 1/2 quarts

## Editors Corner ...

It's a good feeling to see and hear  
 the ships plying the St. Clair River  
 again. As we go about our routine  
 "Spring Chores" on the banks of the  
 St. Clair River, we're aware of all  
 13 of the 1,000 footers being in  
 service.

The number of Great Lakes freighters  
 flying the U.S. flag reached 61 re-  
 cently. Shipping experts attribute  
 increased traffic to steel mills  
 high operations and the strong de-  
 mand for stone, cement, sand and  
 other construction materials.

According to George Ryan, President  
 of the Cleveland based Lake Carriers'  
 Association, the Great Lakes Sailors  
 Job Referral Center has placed news-  
 paper ads for Coast Guard certified  
 oilers and able bodied seamen.

So, things are looking good for  
 1988 shipping traffic!  
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Rolling Rhubarb Punch - continued  
 of punch before icing.

Courtesy of John Clark,  
 Watchman on a Steamship

8 Schedule for the Grand Re-opening of the Museum of Arts & History  
Port Huron, Michigan

Sun., May 15, 1988: 2 P.M. Ground Breaking and Ribbon Cutting  
2 - 4 P.M. Beatrice Thornton Student Art Exhibit & Reception  
7 - 9 P.M. Blue Water Art Association Exhibition & Reception

Mon., May 16, 1988: 12 Noon Guild Luncheon  
7:30 P.M. Cressman Travelogue "Italy"

Tues., May 17, 1988: 1 - 4 P.M. Blue Water Lapidary Society "Open House"  
7 - 9 P.M.

Wed., May 18, 1988: 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. International Museum Day  
10 A.M.: Museum Directors Work Shop  
7 P.M. Family History Workshop "The World of  
Genealogy" with Ronald Bremer  
7:30 P.M. Huron Questers - Personal Collection and  
Concert by the Port Huron Recorder Consort

Thur., May 19, 1988: 1-4 P.M. Living History - Feast of the Ste. Claire  
Re-enactors  
7:30 P.M. Lake Huron Lore Marine Society, Marine  
Video presentations by Malcolm McRae, Sarnia

Fri., May 20, 1988: 11 A.M. - 4 P.M. Senior Citizens Day  
11 A.M. Cressman Travelogue "Germany" with Ice Cream  
Social afterward  
1-3:30 P.M. Spinning & Weaving Demonstration  
7:30 P.M. Jazz Concert, Little McKinney "Cotton  
Pickers" & Pixee Wales

Sat., May 21, 1988: 11 A.M. - 3 P.M. Childrens Day  
11 A.M. Heritage String Band  
12:30 P.M. Bill Siemers - String Puppet Theatre  
"Beauty and the Beast"  
2 P.M. Museum Dancing Stars  
3 P.M. Chris "The Great Magician"  
7-11 P.M. Rap & Jam; & Old Fashioned Square Dance

Sun., May 22, 1988: 2 P.M. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Reservations