

THE LIGHTSHIP



Volume XI No. 2
September 1989
Lake Huron Lore
Newsletter

Museum of Arts & History
Marine Gallery
1115 Sixth St.
Port Huron, MI 48060

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

Lake Huron Lore VOLUNTEERS

are working vigorously and diligently during
the restoration of the Lightship
"HURON"

Restoration of the lightship was begun in April 1989, after getting clearance from the City of Port Huron, through the Museum of Arts & History. Walt Smith, Ted Richardson and a crew of volunteers have been working regularly each Tuesday, Thursday and some Saturdays with the end in sight of opening the lightship to the public, possibly in Spring 1990.



PROGRAM MEETING

Sat. September 30, 1989

7:30 p.m.

Museum of Arts and History
Port Huron

Speaker: **Leon DeRosia, Ret. BMCS**
United States Coast Guard

on

"Life Aboard a Lightship"

Chief DeRosia served in the Coast Guard from August 1942 to November 1968. Most of his duty was at various light stations and during the 1960's he served on the Lightship HURON as Officer in Charge. He currently lives in Bay City with his wife, Gwen.

There will be a representative aboard the HURON from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. that day for any members who would like to see the progress of the restoration to date.

LAKE HURON LORE Board of Directors

President - Walter M. Smith
Treasurer - Edith Hoyer
Secretary - Paul Schmitt
Trustees - Robert R. "Bob" Lester
Ellsworth Lindsay
William J. "Bill" Luke
Ted C. Richardson
Jean G. Tabor

NAME CHANGES

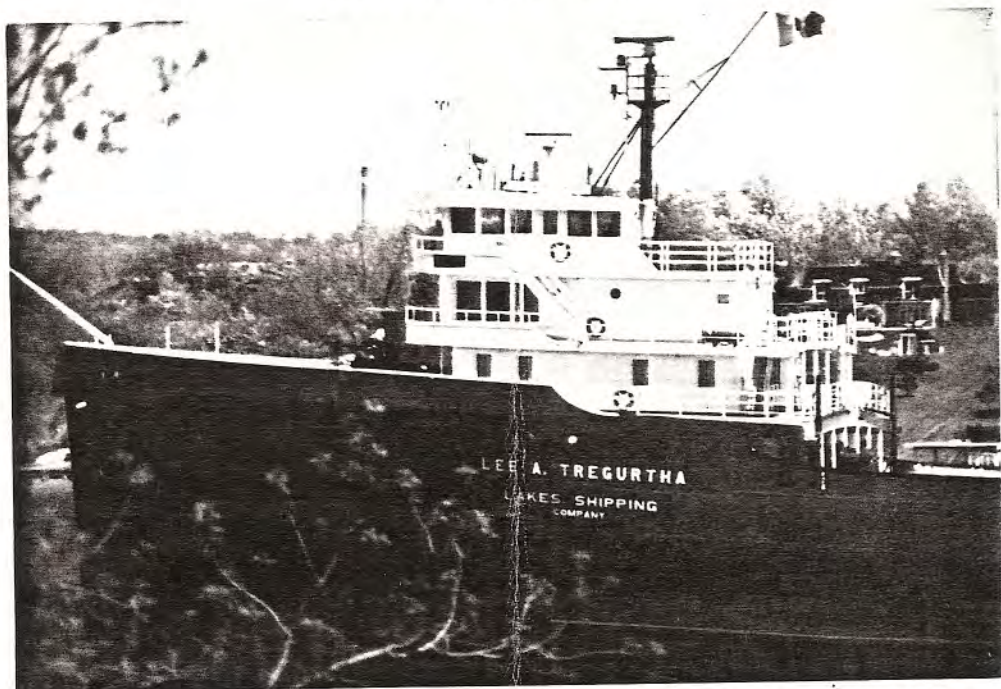
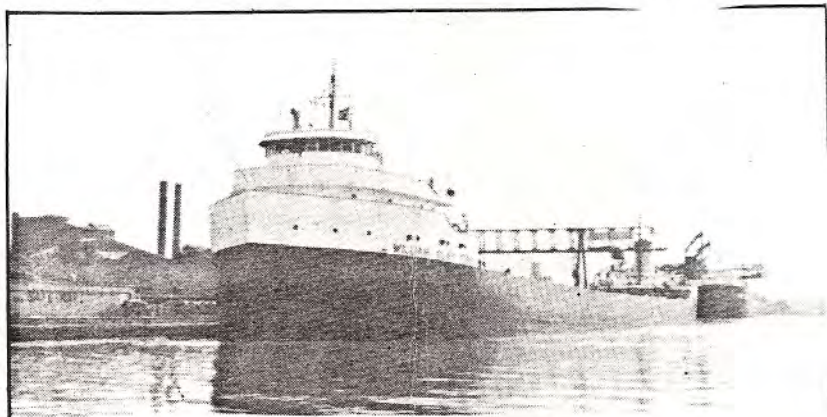


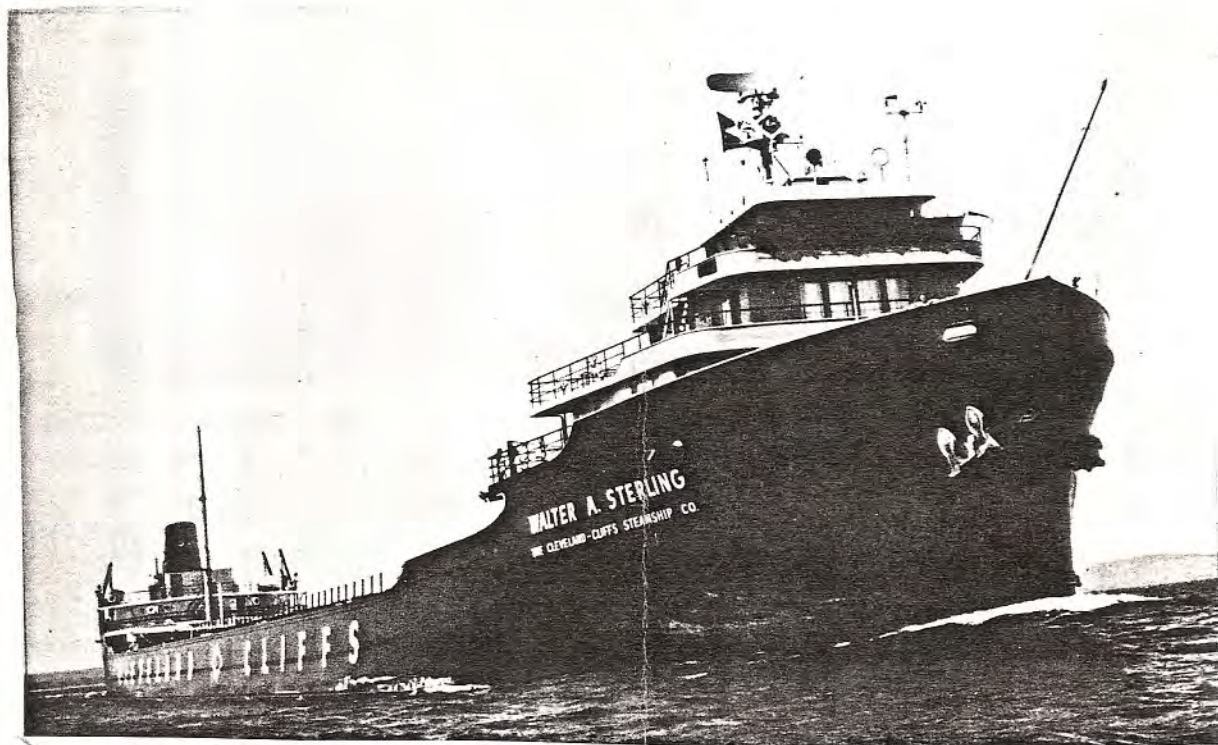
photo by Frank Tabor

The **LEE A. TREGURTHA**, 1989, Interlake, named for the wife of Paul Tregurtha, vice chairman of Interlake. Formerly this ship was part of the Ford Fleet, the **WILLIAM CLAY FORD** (U.S. 251505).

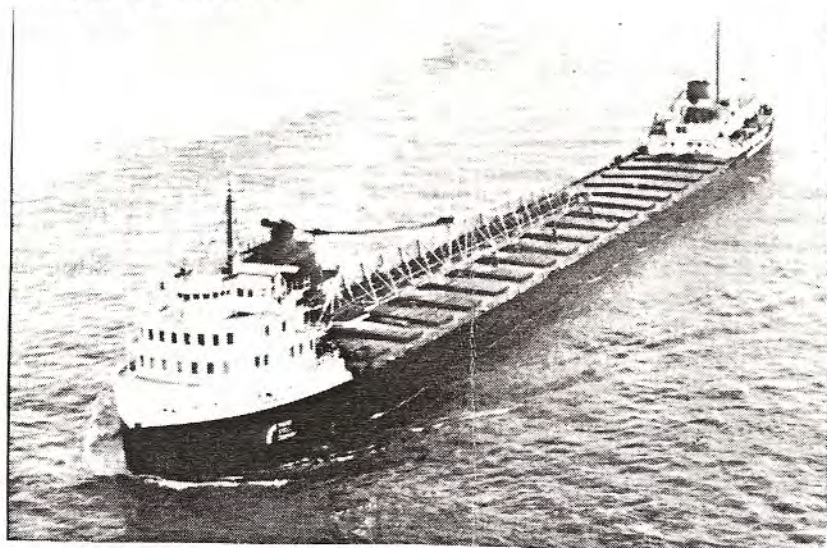


the **WILLIAM CLAY FORD**

In 1985, the former Cleveland Cliffs ship, **WALTER A. STERLING** (below) became the **WILLIAM CLAY FORD**.



• **SAMUEL MATHER**, 1989, Interlake, (renamed for one of the founders of Cleveland Cliffs/Pickands Mather Companies) was formerly the **HENRY FORD II**. The 'DUCE' was built in 1924 and converted to a self-unloader in 1974, as shown below.



THE HENRY FORD II

photo by Marc Dease

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KAYE E. BARKER



photo by Kathy McGraw

The **KAYE E. BARKER**, 1989, Interlake (named for the wife of James R. Barker, chairman and C.E.O. of Interlake) was formerly the **BENSON FORD** (U.S. 263980).

THE BENSON FORD

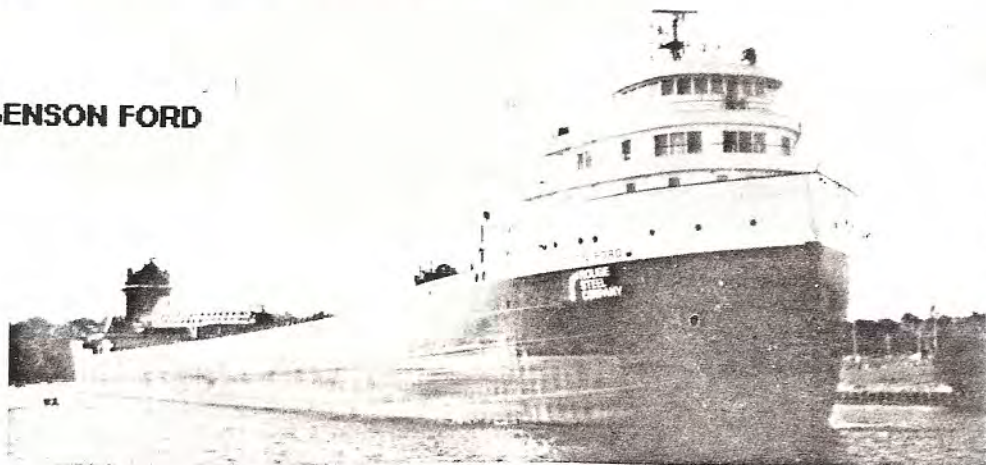


photo by Daniel Carlsson

In 1985, the **BENSON FORD** name was put on the newly acquired Cleveland Cliffs vessel, **EDWARD B. GREENE**, shown below sailing as a Cleveland Cliffs ship.

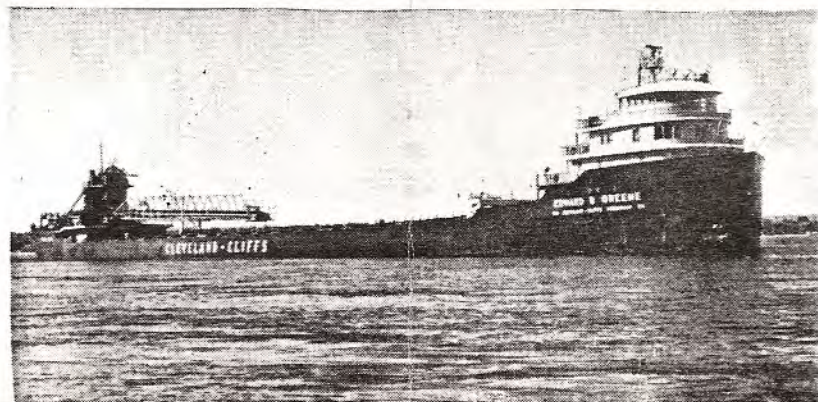


photo by A. F. Sagon King

May 23, 1989

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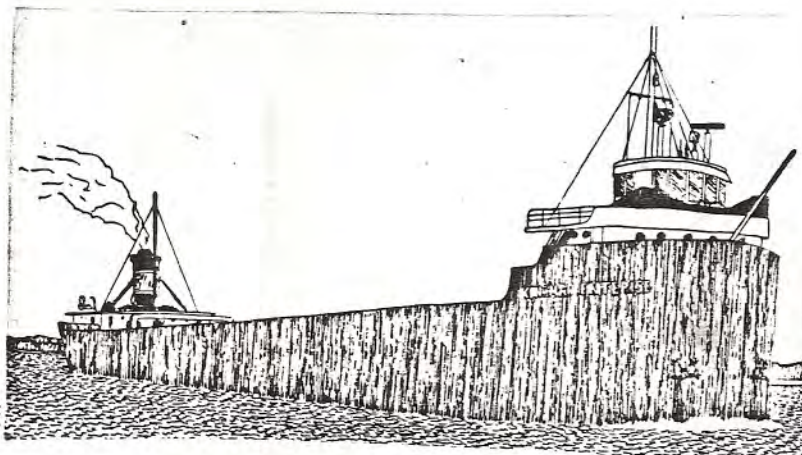
ONTARIO NORTHLAND OWEN SOUND



photo by Frank Tabor

passing upbound in the St. Clair River. The passenger and auto ferry, the former SKUDENES, was on her way to join the CHI-CHEEMAUN in service between Tobermory and South Baymouth. Her new name is: **NINDAWAYMA !**

April 1989 - **ATLANTIC ERIC**, ex - **HON. PAUL MARTIN**. She has been reflagged to the Bahamas and registered in Nassau.



the **KINSMAN ENTERPRISE**

was a familiar sight on the St. Clair River. This 601' long ship was built in 1906 by the Chicago Shipbuilding Co., as the **NORMAN B. REAM** for Pittsburgh Steamship. The REAM enjoyed many busy seasons throughout her career until she was idled at Duluth from 1960 to 1965. At the end of this period she was sold to the Kinsman Transit Company and renamed **KINSMAN ENTERPRISE**.

The Enterprise, capable of carrying 12,500 tons of cargo, carried grain, ore, coal and stone until 1978, when it was retired at Toledo.

The Port Huron Terminal bought the ship in 1979 and used her as a storage hull for sugarbeet pellets, sunflower seeds and corn gluten. During the ten-year period she was at the terminal, Lake Huron Lore

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Society volunteer workers obtained many artifacts for our Port Huron Museum of Arts and History Marine Gallery. Our re-created "Pilot House" in the Gallery was constructed partly of materials from the pilot house of the Enterprise, including the oak paneling, steering stand, radio direction finder, and chart table.

The Port Huron Terminal, via Bill Neal, has donated the Galley equipment: pots, pans and dishes for the Galley of the lightship, **HURON**.

On Saturday, August 26, 1989, the **KINSMAN ENTERPRISE** was towed from the Port Huron Terminal for scrap.

The **KINSMAN ENTERPRISE** waiting to be towed for scrap.

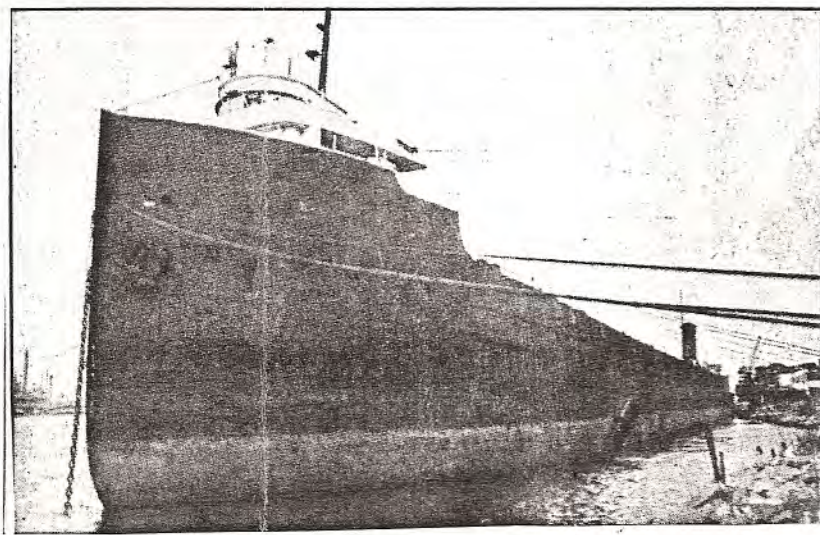


photo by Dorothy Neaton

May 29, 1989 - The Boblo steamer, Ste. Clair

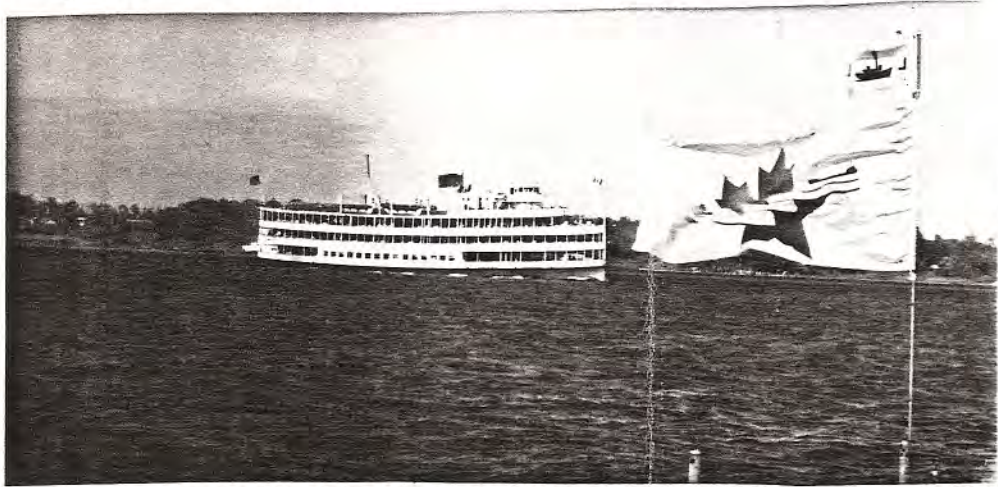


photo by Frank Tabor

cruises along the St. Clair River on her Memorial Day round trip cruise from Detroit, through the "Venice of America" (the St. Clair Flats) to Port Huron and return.

The Lake Huron Lore flag flew at the top of the pole above the St. Lawrence Seaway 25th Anniversary flag to honor the steamboat and its passengers. A "salute" was also blown but there was no response.

The "Cruise to Blue Water" is the 1st time the 300+ aboard had the pleasure of this sentimental journey in 10 years. The Bluewater Michigan Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society sponsored the excursion of the 81 year old steamship.

THE OLD SHIPS

By Alice M. Miller

I watched the rushing water lap against the old ships
and crinkle their edges into rusty brown,
as they move silently through the St. Clair River
after leaving their cargo at the docks in old Port Huron town.

I watched the water of time lap the shores of my mind
and play along its edges to gently endow
quiet pools of rusty memories and slowly
change my body into the old worn vessel that I see now.

I observed that the old ships and I are still sailing;
not aware of our aging crinkled frames; it's true.
We sail on into the blue water of time; of course...
the ships are moving a little slower now, but then... I am too!

(C) 1989 Alice M. Miller

Alice M. Miller is a Port Huron, Michigan resident.

LAKE HURON LIGHTSHIP (WLV-526)

For thirty-six years the Huron Lightship guided mariners into the narrow dredged channel of lower Lake Huron leading to the St. Clair River. When retired in 1970 she was the last of some 22 lightships on the Great Lakes and the only U.S. lightship ever painted black.

Acquired by the City of Port Huron, by mandate of area residents, the ship was permanently enshrined at Pine Grove Park in 1972 as a tribute to her vigilance and in fond memory of a passed era.

We are all deeply indebted to the members of Port Huron's U.S. Naval Reserve Training Facility who dedicated themselves to preserving this classic vessel.

-----UPDATE-----

Volunteer members of LAKE HURON LORE SOCIETY, have been busily at work since April preparing the lightship for its opening to the public, anticipated for Spring 1990. Although the ship is in very good condition, for its age, it needs sprucing-up and improved access. A lot of chipping, painting and washing have already been done, along with replacement of porthole glass, installation of interior half-doors to control interior space access and upgrading of the lighting system. A new entrance through the hull was installed the first week of September, to provide a "barrier-free" access. Although there is work remaining to be done, the progress is worthy of your inspection.