

# THE LIGHTSHIP

Frank & Jean Tabor: Co-editors, 1413 N. River Rd., St. Clair MI 48079, (313) 329-2491

## LIGHTSHIP DEDICATED

At 11AM, Lake Huron Lore's William "Bill" Luke charismatically performed the Master of Ceremony duties welcoming the gathering under warm, sunny skies. Don Thurow, one of the regular volunteers during the rehabilitation of the HURON and a former member of the Huron's crew, reminisced about his experiences of the Lightship.

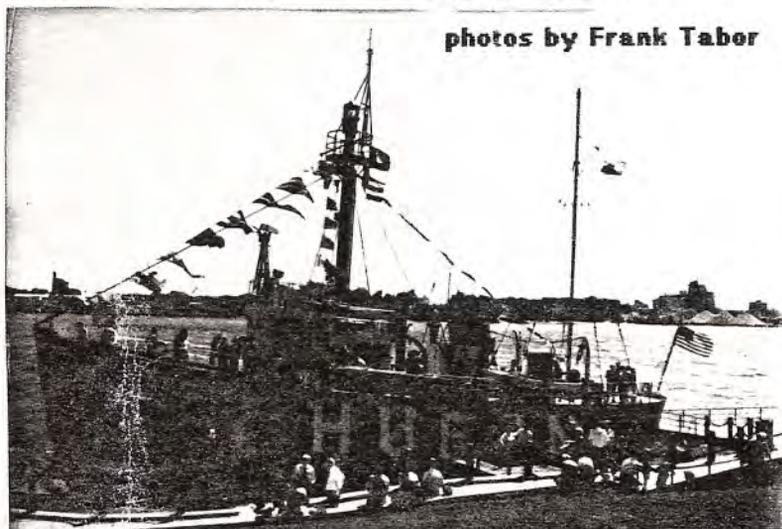
The Historic Landmark Plaque (see photo elsewhere in article) was presented by Ray Kimpel of the National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, to Port Huron's Mayor, Mary Brooks.

Acknowledgements, Presentations and recognitions were given by Dorothy Henry, Museum of Arts & History; Walter Smith, Lake Huron Lore; Bill Luke, Detroit Marine Society; and Chief Eager, U.S.C.G., Port Huron Station.

Philip Larson, Ham Radio Operator, performed the first official radio transmission & contact from the Huron Lightship's radio room since its decommissioning in 1970. Henceforth the radio room will be used by the Eastern Michigan Amateur Radio Club (EMARC).

Capt. Ted Richardson, Huron Lightship

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photos by Frank Tabor

The HURON Lightship, No. 103, full-dressed in signal flags, the National Ensign and the Union Jack for her official dedication, Thursday, Aug 2, 1990.

## PROGRAM MEETING

SAT. SEPT. 15, 1990  
at 7:30 PM

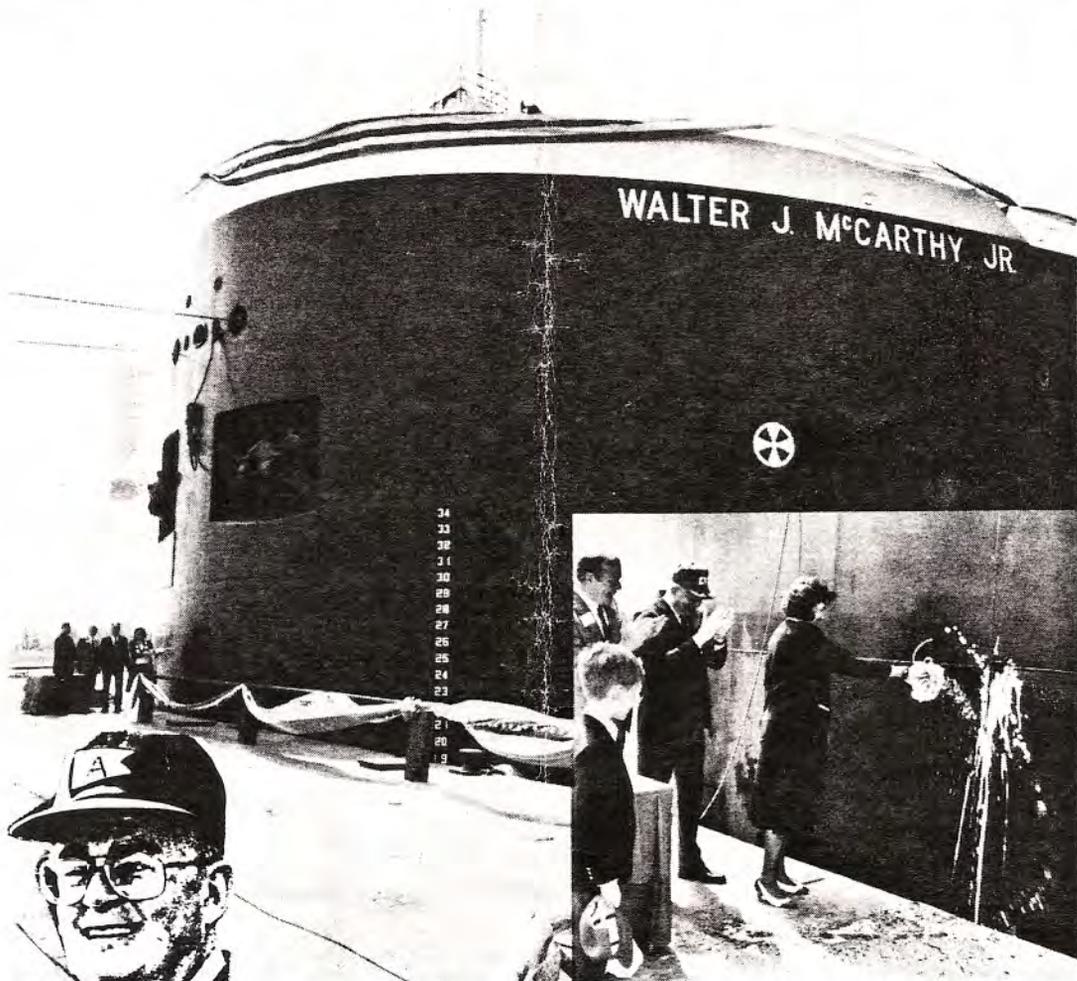
in the Museum of Arts & History  
south gallery-1st floor\*

## EMORY A. "BUD" MASSMANN

will present a slide show  
featuring "THE GREAT LAKES  
SHIPS THAT SAILED THE ST. CLAIR  
RIVER 40 YEARS AGO"

\*There is not enough space on the  
Lightship to hold our program meeting.

2  
BELLE RIVER rechristened WALTER J. McCARTHY JR



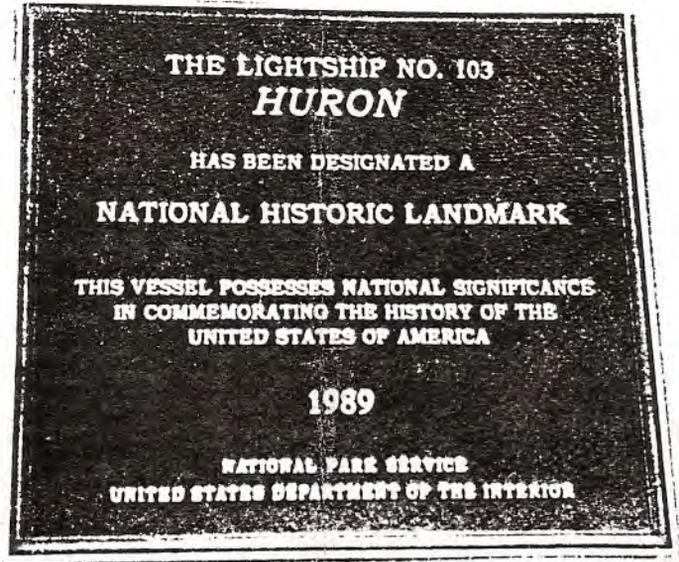
Right insert above: Linda McCarthy, wife of WALTER J. McCARTHY JR, rechristens the M/V WALTER J. McCARTHY JR (bow pictured at top) in honor of her husband, pictured in left insert

Luke's Loggings by William J. Luke...

The normally quiet grounds of the mothballed Marysville plant of the Detroit Edison Company were the scene, on May 25th, 1990, of most colorful ceremonies. Shortly before noon on that lovely, sunny day, American Steamship Company's 1000-foot motorship BELLE RIVER was rechristened in honor of Edison's recently retired Chairman, Walter J. Mc Carthy, Jr.

Mr. McCarthy, widely recognized as one of his industry's most prominent leaders, is additionally well known for the outstanding civic and cultural contributions he has made to his city and state. Less known is "Mac's" love of our Great Lakes scene and its vessels and the

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National Historic Landmark Plaque presented by Ray Kimpel, Management Assistant, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

LIGHTSHIP DEDICATION, continued

Committee then cut the ribbon across the public entrance to the Huron Lightship.

An appetizing buffet and punch were served on the main deck.

Touring of the Lightship followed. The Lightship and its Gift Shop will be open the same hours as the museum: Wed. through Sun. from 130 PM to 430 PM until Sept. 2, 1990. Other times & tour groups can be arranged by contacting the Museum of Arts & History (313)982-0891. Members of Lake Huron Lore & Museum of Arts & History are admitted FREE. Admission charges to others:

- Adults \$100
- Seniors & Students \$ .50
- Children 6 & under: Free

In the time since the dedication on August 2, 1990, through August 25th, the Lightship has been toured by approximately 1,300 visitors.

Many visitors have commented that the spruced-up Lightship is a very attractive feature of Pine Grove Park.

By the way - the lighted Huron Lightship makes an impressive sight after dark. The topside, at night, is bathed in the soft light of floodlights shining down from the lantern mast while the hull is lit by floodlights at ground level.

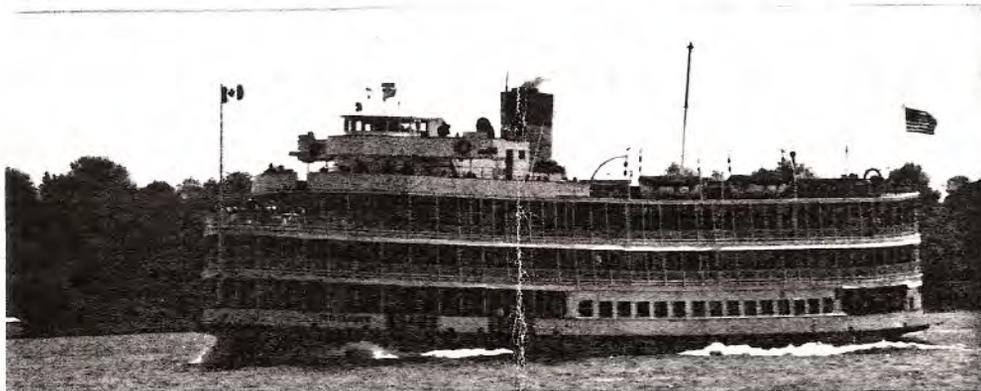
## OBSERVATIONS of 1990 St. Clair River "happenings":

The new color design on the hulls of the U.S.S. Great Lakes Fleet: shown below, in black & white, on the Philip R. Clarke.



The dark red hull has a medium wide, diagonal black stripe, followed by a wide, light gray diagonal stripe on her bow section. The vessel name is in white letters (which, in our opinion, does not show up very well on light gray) with "U.S.S. Great Lakes Fleet" below vessel name, also in white. The USS logo has been removed from the silver/black stacks.

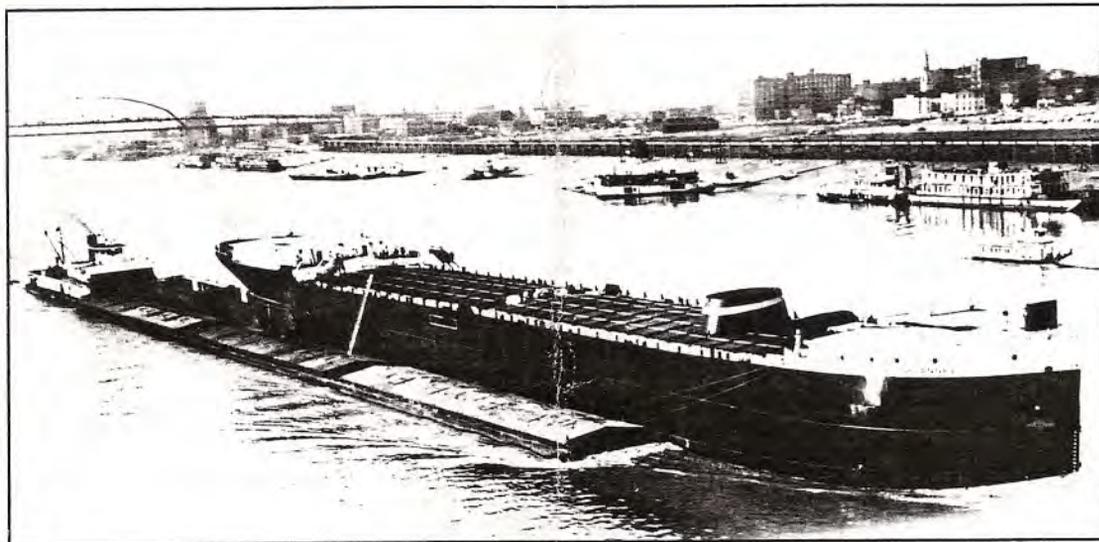
On May 28, 1990, Memorial Day, both Boblo boats, the Ste Claire (shown below) and the Columbia



made historic cruises from Detroit to Port Huron and back. Travelers lined the rails to view the sights. Box lunches were picked up in Port Huron, reportedly prepared by the Thomas Edison Inn, and served, to those who had pre-ordered them, on the return trip.

A frequent sight on the St. Clair River this season is the barge CHIEF WAWATAM, powered by the Canadian tug ANGLIAN LADY. The WAWATAM formerly was a rail and passenger car ferry at the Straits of Mackinac. She had been out-of-service for several years pending a possible preservation as a museum.

## ASC Trivia



Any American Steamship Company trivia buffs out there? If you're one, here's a question for you! We can easily tell that this is an American Steamship Company boat by its stack, but what three things identify her as the STR. MC KEE SONS? Give up!?

1. The name: The Marine Angel was the previous name of the STR. MC KEE SONS.
2. The location: She is being towed down the Mississippi River, the only ASC boat besides the STR. SHARON to have done so.

3. The shape of the stern: The blister (or bustle) was added to increase its bouancy allowing her to safely travel up the Mississippi River.

The Marine Angel was a C-4 troop carrier when American Steamship Company purchased her. The process of her conversion included cutting the original boat in two. An entirely new bow was then attached to the original stern. The STR. McKEE SONS is currently in lay-up status at the Toledo Frog Pond. ☼

On Sat., May 5, 1990, the Times Herald, Port Huron, MI reported that the 680' M/V Charles E. Wilson had run aground about 6:30 AM in Ludington Harbor in Lake Michigan. It was freed, allegedly sustaining no damage by 9:AM with the help of a 30' tugboat.

On May 29, 1990, she went into the Fraser Shipyards for her 5 year inspection. On the 2nd day of her inspection - 2 out of 3 sea chests contained zebra mussels. One sea chest had only a few young mussels while the other had more adult mussels.

Luke's Loggings - continued from page 2

fact that he is truly a "boat buff." It was most fitting therefore that he was honored in having this vessel renamed for him. The rechristened ship is employed principally in transporting western coal from Superior, Wisconsin to Edison's St. Clair and Belle River power plants on the St. Clair River.

At a post-christening luncheon held at the Marysville plant's handsome activities building, a most attractive watercolor painting of the WALTER J. MCCARTHY, JR., done by the noted marine artist Paul LaMarre, was displayed as was an unusual wooden model of the vessel, crafted by several members of Edison's engineering staff. Following the luncheon, Mr. McCarthy presented the model to Captain Ted Richardson and Walter Smith of our Lake Huron Lore Marine Society, for permanent display in the Marine Gallery of Port Huron's Museum of Arts and History.

It was through Mr. McCarthy's offices that the two "Great Lakes Live Steam Whistle Blast" programs were arranged for at Edison's Marysville plant in June of 1983 and 1985.

#### Lake Huron Lore - Board of directors

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Ted C. Richardson

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#### Editors Corner...

Frank & I have now completed three challenging years of co-editing & publishing the Lake Huron Lore Newsletter "The Lightship". The completion of each edition has been gratifying to us but we do not feel we have the sources for the kind of information the readers desire. So, this issue of the Newsletter is our last publication.

We wish to thank Bill Luke for his contributions of "Luke's Loggings" during the past three years. Also: Ted Richardson, Paul Schmitt and LCDR Dennis Sobel, U.S.C.G., for updates &/or an article.

We are confident that there are one or more among the membership who would be more than willing to volunteer their marine expertise, time & talent to continue "putting out" the Lake Huron Lore Newsletter "Lightship".