

PROGRAM MEETING
APRIL 18th AT
MUSEUM OF ARTS
AND HISTORY

VOLUME 2, No. 4,
APRIL 1981



Editor: F. R. Crevier, Algonac, 794-3466.

Bus. Off. Marysville, EM-4-6362, 97 Gratiot.

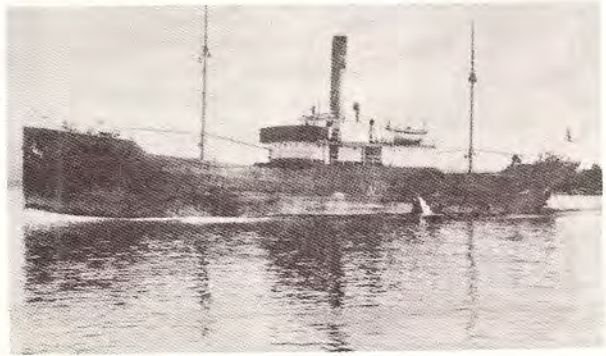
Shipwrecks on Lakes Huron and Michigan Will Be Featured at April Meeting

LARRY COPLIN WILL VISIT PORT HURON IN BEHALF OF S. H. I. P. S.
AN ORGANIZATION THAT ATTEMPTS TO PRESERVE THE ARTIFACTS IN PLACE
AND DESERVES THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE MARINE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

It is always a sure sign of spring in the air when Larry Coplin comes to Port Huron to show more of those miraculous underwater movies that he and his associates have made.

The famous "Christmas Tree Ship" of Lake Michigan will be explored this evening. The ROUSE SIMMONS, a three masted schooner whose owner for years had brought from the northland to the Chicago River, a cargo of Christmas trees for the city trade. On November 25, 1913, the vessel set sail from Thompson Harbor near Manistique, Michigan, for Chicago with her annual cargo of Christmas cheer. Just two weeks before, the great storm of November 9 had ravaged all the lakes and another gale was rising as the Simmons left port. But time was pressing if the cargo was to be in Chicago in time for the Christmas trade, and the Captain courageously put to sea in the face of the gale. At dawn of the 26th the Simmons was sighted off Sturgeon Bay by the Coast Guard with distress signals flying, but even the lifesavers were unable to put to sea in the storm that was raging. However, they reported to the station at Kewaunee the plight of the Simmons and the lifesaving crew there went out in search of her. A blinding snowstorm was now raging, obscuring the vision, and for a long time they found nothing. In a momentary lull of the storm, however, the ship was seen,

(Continued on page four)



STRAIGHTBACK LAUNCH APRIL 28TH

T. G. L. S. F. T. P. O. S. S. L. WILL MAKE A
PILGRIMAGE TO COLLINGWOOD ON THE
27TH---STORY ON PAGE TWO

April 28th has been set by Collingwood Shipyards for the launch day of the next ship. This will be a combination launch and christening ceremony, a change from the original plans.

The shipyards never announce the name of a ship before christening, however rumor has it, that it will be LAKE WABESH.

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MEET YOU AT
THE MUSEUM

PIONEER DAY

AUG. 23rd
AT NOON

Restoration Progresses On INDIANIA Steam Equipment

PAT LABADIE OF DULUTH, AND RICHARD WRIGHT OF BOWLING GREEN, OHIO, DESERVE THE CREDIT FOR GETTING THIS PROJECT GOING. LET'S GET THE MARINE SOCIETIES OF THE GREAT LAKES TOGETHER AND HAVE AS MANY OF THEIR MEMBERS AS POSSIBLE ATTEND THE OPENING IN 1982.

Several members have inquired about the engine removed last year from the Propellor INDIANA that was taken to the Smithsonian from Lake Superior.

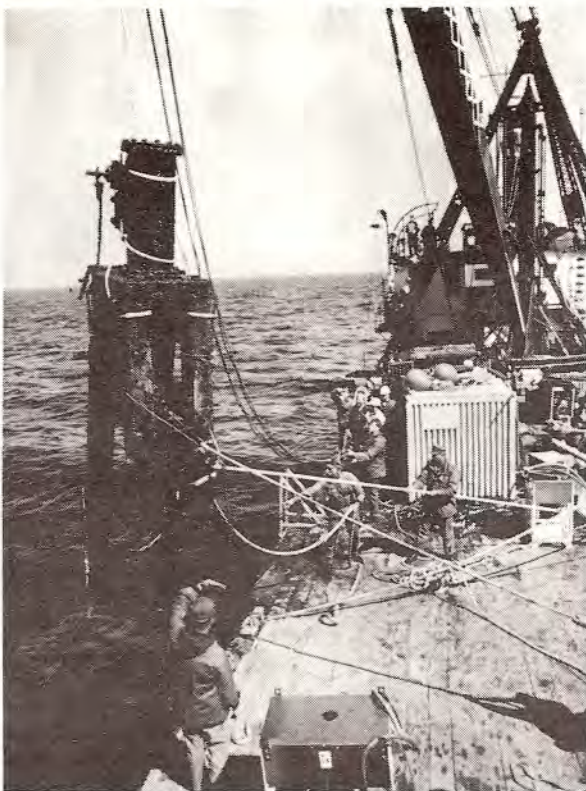
John N. Stine, museum specialist, in the Division of Transportation, who had charge of the work of removing the engine for the Smithsonian says, "we are planning an abbreviated INDIANA exhibit opening, tentatively April 15, 1981, in the Maritime Hall National Museum of American History, in Washington, D.C. This exhibit will include the propellor mounted on a wall and slowly turning, the boiler hand pump, the cross-head pump and about 25 large color pictures of the salvage with text.

"As you may imagine, the conservation and preservation is no light undertaking. This summer we hope to complete the boiler, crankshaft and main bearing with the engine scheduled for the Fall of 1981 and Summer of 1982.

"Competition for space in the museum is very keen but we do have great expectations for a spot which will allow it to be viewed from top and bottom. The cost of installation will probably reach the \$150,000 mark since extensive alterations to the building are necessary. Several offers of partial funding have been received from the marine industry, therefore, recent budget cutbacks should not be a drawback."

THIS WHOLE PROJECT STARTED WITH LAKE HURON LORE MEMBER JOHN STEELE WHEN HE MADE THE EXCELLENT UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF THE PROPELLOR INDIANIA. CONGRATULATIONS JOHN!

Mr. Stine will place Lake Huron Lore on the list for press releases that will report the progress of the project. We will make some plans for a group trip to Washington



-Photo by Smithsonian Derrick Barge COLEMAN, Detroit District Corps of Engineers, removing the engine and cylinder of the INDIANA from Lake Superior. A co-operative project between the US Navy, Corps of Engineers and The Smithsonian.

to see the earliest Great Lakes Engine in all her glory when completed... or perhaps we might have an engine of our own by that time.

LEAVE THE DRIVING TO
THE MUSEUM BUS ! !
There are still a few seats
left on the Collingwood Bus
for the 27 of April.

Call

MUSEUM OF ARTS AND HISTORY
313-982-0891

for Rates and Reservations NOW!

COLUMBIA STAR

We willsoon see COLUMBIA STAR of the Columbia Transportation Company. She is expected to go into service by the end of May. She will be a ship that will be regularly viewed by the St. Clair River boatwatchers. She will run exclusively between Silver Bay and the Port of Toledo. All new dock facilities have been built for her at Toledo. That will afford a good view of her in port.

While she was probably named for the company that owns her, the name COLUMBIA is the oldest one in the Great Lakes iron ore trade. It was the little Brig COLUMBIATHAT brought the first iron ore down the lakes after the opening of the St. Marys Falls Canal.

Columbia Transportation has considerable activity at the Bay Shipyards. The conversion of COURTNEY BURTON is just about complete and is expected to go back into service around the first of May. That will be the subject of a lot of pictures. With the unloading boom aft, it is hard to imagine that her looks have been improved a great deal. It is rumored that the Burton will remain as flagship of the fleet, even after the STAR has entered the fleet.

The Columbiasteamers MIDDLETOWN and ARMCO are in the advanced stages of planning at Bayship, and are scheduled for conversion in the Fall of this year.

SPRING DINNER?

Several of the members of Lake Huron Lore have suggested that we have a marine dinner in the River District this Spring, due to the fact that the Detroit Marine Historical Society has given up having their dinner in the area.

A committee has been appointed to secure prices and locations and we will take a poll of the membership at the next meeting to see what the consensus of opinion will be. We are able to secure a speaker in May and the selection of the location and price will be the choice of the members present at the April meeting.

Another suggestion that has come to me is to have two dinner meetings a year, another in the fall. We are increasing our Canadian membership year and it might be appropriate that we have one meeting in each country. This will be put to a vote also.

This organization is the property of those who support it, and suggestions are most certainly welcome at all times... Editor.

M/V ALGOWOOD SEA TRIALS SET FOR APRIL 8 AND 9.

We can expect to see the M/V ALGOWOOD on her maiden voyage on the St. Clair River soon after the 9th of April.

She is scheduled for sea trials on the 8th and 9th and then she will proceed to Owen Sound to load grain for the lower lakes. We will have to depend on our Chief Shipwatcher Dorothy, to clue us in on her ETA at Blue Water Bridge.

SHOW OF MODELS THIS SUMMER FEATURE FOR THE MARINE EXHIBIT

This summer's marine exhibit, which will open in the Museum of Arts and History on July 10th with an evening reception is now in the process of planning. Capt. Ted Richardson is the chairman of this event, and those who have models that would like to display them, please contact him at 1865 Oakland, St. Clair, phone 329-3946.

Lake Huron Lore members who want to volunteer for help at this show may also contact Ted. These are quite a job to get together and some help can be used.

The members of Lake Huron Lore and their friends are requested to put in an appearance at this reception. You will enjoy it.

WHO WANTS TO MAKE A TRIP TO DULUTH SOME TIME THIS SUMMER?

Lake Huron Lore has been given the materials for the interior of a pilot house. We want to know who would like to make a trip to Duluth some time in the nice weather? If you are interested contact the editor.

JOIN NOW

OVER TWO HUNDRED MARINE
BUFFS CAN'T BE WRONG... in
fact none of them ever are!!!

The best \$5 you ever spent.....

SEE ENCLOSED APPLICATION
FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

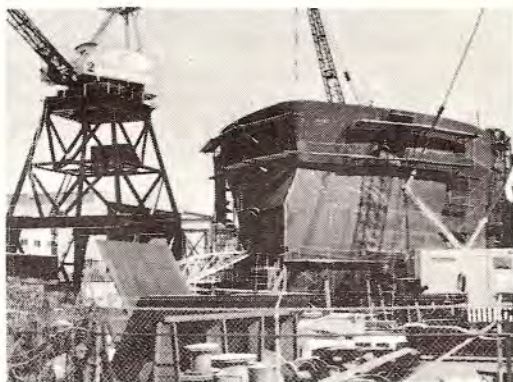
THE GREAT LAKES SOCIETY FOR
THE PRESERVATION OF SIDESHIP
LAUNCHING.

World Headquarters:

Museum of Arts and History

1115 Sixth Street, Port Huron, Mich.

STRAIGHTBACK LAUNCH
APRIL 28TH
(Continued from page one)



--Bow of LAKE WABESH as seen in the shipyard early in March.

Wabesh being the name of one of the mining districts in Labrador. She will be owned by Nipigon Transportation. At this time we have not received any specifications or dimensions. These will appear in a later edition of LIGHTSHIP.

The new ship reverses the trend of the past few years, in fact she is the first of the straightbacks to be constructed for quite some time, where you were not with the mod group in either United States or Canada if you did not have all that fancy unloading gear riding either on deck and in the hold, taking what is not likely, a free ride, with fuel prices what they are today and tending upward each day.

S H I P W R E C K S O N L A K E M I C H I G A N A N D L A K E H U R O N L A K E H U R O N L O R E P R O G R A M F O R A P R I L M E E T I N G

(Concluded from page one)

hull coated with ice and with sails in tatters. Then the storm closed down once more and the ROUSE SIMMONS was never seen again. --(Dana Bowen). A bottle washed ashore on the beach at Sheboygan contained this note: "Everybody goodbye. I guess we are through. . . Leaking bad. Endwald and Stede fell overboard on Thursday. God help us. ". Captain Schuneman.

In our next underwater exploration we move ahead several years to 1935 and over east on Lake Huron. This Time it was the same old problem of fog off Thunder Bay Island.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY
INVITED TO ATTEND
THE NEXT MEETING OF

THE GREAT LAKES SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF SIDESHIP LAUNCHING

WHICH WILL CONVENE AT
COLLINGWOOD, ONTARIO
ON
MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 27th

AT THE
HEIDELBERG INN,
Hume Street, Collingwood, Ont.
Dinner at 7 p. m. with an entertainment
program to follow.

Our hosts: Mr. and Mrs. Brown of the
Heidelberg will serve their delicious
BUFFET SUPPER, with entrees of
Roast Beef and Turkey and all the fix-
ings, including dessert and Beverage.

The Tarriff is \$10.00(Canadian) and in-
cludes taxes gratuities, etc. A CASH Bar
will be open at all times.

Mr. Joseph Sheffer, Human Relations
Director for the shipyard will present
the entertainment.

FOR THOSE ARRIVING TOO LATE FOR
DINNER \$5.00 DOOR CHARGE WILL
BE MADE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT
ONLY.

see notice for available bus tour
sponsored by Museum of Arts & Hist.

This time there was no personal tragedy and no loss of life. The S. S. VIATOR a Norwegian ship of 619 tons was upbound on her maiden voyage to the Great Lakes. At 5 : 20 a. m. on the 31st of October, 1935, she was struck in the side by the ORMINDALE. The ORMINDALE cut about five feet into the side of the VIATOR at the after end of the engine room. They managed to hold the bow of the ORMINDALE into the slash until the VIATOR's crew could climb aboard. The ORMINDALE backed away and the VIATOR sank.