

Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage

Vol. 3 No. 2

A publication of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association

March-May 1993

Summer Projects Fieldwork weekend planned for June

A weekend fieldwork project is planned for the Leathem & Smith Quarry site near Sturgeon Bay for June 12-13.

As discussed in the June 1991 newsletter, the waters along the quarry contain the wreckage of the Joseph L. Hurd, a wooden steam barge built in 1861; and the Mueller, a wooden screw steamer that was built in 1887. Work on the site is a priority since state and county officials are going ahead with plans to build a new launching ramp at the quarry.

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Volunteers needed for Port Washington work

John Jensen, an underwater archeologist with the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is looking for volunteers for a fieldwork project in Port Washington in August.

The three-week project will begin on Aug. 9, and divers will perform mapping, documentation and video and still photography work on several local wrecks. Volunteers can assist with all or part of the research project.

Among the wrecks to be studied is Niagara, a 230-foot sidewheeler built in 1845 at Buffalo, N.Y. On Sept. 24, 1856, the ship was bound for Chicago from Collingwood, Ontario when it caught fire two miles from Port Washington.

Today the remains of the Niagara are in
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Annual Dues are Due

If your membership in WUAA expires in the first half of the year, a renewal notice is included in this issue of your newsletter. Please return it with a check as soon as possible.

Sheboygan project recovers wreckage from two vessels

When work began on the new Sheboygan Harbor Centre Marina in 1992, an archaeological survey was done of the wrecks in the harbor.

In the process of that survey, the wreckage of what is thought to be schooner Lottie Cooper was rediscovered. The wreckage was subsequently recovered and is now located in what will eventually become a new city park.

Also recovered during dredging operations were metal plates from one of the earliest iron vessels on the Great Lakes, the Col. Albert.

THE LOTTIE COOPER

Built in 1876 by the Rand and Burger shipyards in Manitowoc, the Lottie Cooper was a three-masted wooden schooner. The vessel measured 131 feet long with a beam

of 27 feet and a depth of nine feet.

The Cooper's gross tonnage was listed at 252.48 tons. The vessel left Pine River, Mich., early on April 8, 1894 with a cargo of lumber for the Matton Manufacturing Co. of Sheboygan.

However, as the Cooper arrived at the entrance to Sheboygan's harbor near midnight a northeast gale had come up. The schooner signaled for a tug for a tow into the harbor, but none responded.

Unable to enter the harbor under sail, the crew of the Cooper dropped anchor and lowered the sails in attempt to ride out the storm. By dawn, however, part of the schooner's cabin had been washed overboard and the captain raised a distress signal.

The crew of the Sheboygan Life Saving Service station responded to the distress sig-

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Projects, programs and plans highlight spring meeting

The third annual spring meeting of the WUAA attracted over 30 people to the State Historical Society building in Madison on March 20.

During the business portion of the meeting, it was reported that the association has a checking account balance of \$1,250. It was also reported that WUAA is up-to-date on the mailing and production costs of the newsletter.

The results of the fall meeting in Duluth were discussed. That meeting was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History.

Participants were impressed by the quality and variety of the speakers at the AGLMH meeting. Plans are being made to organize a

group from WUAA to attend the association's 1993 meeting in Grand Haven, Mich. on Sept. 16-18.

It was decided to hold the WUAA's fall meeting in the northeastern part of the state. The meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, 1993, at the Manitowoc Maritime Museum beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Several WUAA members attended the Great Lakes Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Resources Policy in February. Craig Fink reported on the results of the meeting and its goal of trying to find common ground among public and private sector interests.

The conference's proceedings were supposed to be available by May 1. Copies can be obtained from the MSU Department of Parks

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Sturgeon Bay

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Plans call for meeting at the quarry, which is located approximately four miles northwest of Sturgeon Bay on County Hwy. B at 9:00 a.m. For those wishing to stay in Door County overnight, several members will be staying at the Door County Kampground near Egg Harbor (tel. 414-868-3151).

For more information on the weekend fieldwork, call Tom Villand at 608-221-1996 or Dave Neudek at 608-246-0351.

Port Washington

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55 feet of water, and much of its machinery is intact. The ship's boilers are about 1,000 feet north of the main section of the wreck and sit upright on the bottom.

The Port Washington Historical Society will provide a place for volunteers to sleep in sleeping bags. John Jensen has arranged for a boat to be chartered, the costs of which the volunteers will be expected to contribute to. For more information, call John at the State Historical Society at (608) 264-6493.

Wisconsin's

Underwater Heritage

is published by the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association.

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Contributions to *Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage* are welcomed. For details, contact Bob O'Donnell at 1-800-236-5739 days or 414-722-8465 evenings.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

- June 12-13 **WUAA Fieldwork Weekend in Door County**— We will continue work on wrecks in the Leathem & Smith Quarry area (see June 1991 newsletter for historical background and pg. 1 of this newsletter for details.).
- July **WUAA Field Training Program on Remote Sensing Techniques**— Dick Boyd will lead an on-water training program in Door County. More details will be available during the field work weekend and in our June research bulletin.
- July 10-11 **Great Lakes Eco-Dive**— Straits Underwater Preserve; St. Ignace, Mich. For more information, contact Maritime Research Associates, Inc., 290 Gorman Road, St. Ignace, MI 49781 (cost: \$95).
- July 17-18 **Great Lakes Eco-Dive**— Alger Underwater Preserve; Munising, Mich. For more information, contact Maritime Research Associates, Inc., 290 Gorman Road, St. Ignace, MI 49781 (cost: \$95).
- August **WUAA Field Training Program in Sheboygan**— We are considering a one-day program on basic documentation and mapping techniques on the remains of the schooner Lottie Cooper which were dredged from the Sheboygan harbor last year. More details will be available at the fieldwork weekend and in our June research bulletin.
- August **Fieldwork Opportunity**— John Jensen of the State Historical Society is planning a survey of wrecks in the Port Washington area beginning Aug. 9. Volunteers divers are needed. Call John at 608-264-6493 for more details.
- Sept. 16-18 **Association for Great Lakes Maritime History**— annual meeting at South Haven, Mich. We will be organizing a group from WUAA to attend the conference. More details in upcoming newsletters. For more information on AGLMH, contact: David Glick, P.O. Box 25, Lakeside, OH 43440.
- Sept. 26-29 **Historic Naval Ship Association of North America**— annual meeting in Toronto. For more information, contact: Channing Zucker, HNSA, 4640 Hoylake Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.
- Oct. 2 **WUAA Fall Conference** — Manitowoc Maritime Museum, Manitowoc. We are looking for program ideas, and members who would like to talk about their summer diving/research work. Call Bob O'Donnell at 414-722-8465, if you are interested. More details in the September newsletter.

State Publications

The following publications are available from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin:

By Fire, Storm, and Ice: Underwater Archeological Investigations in the Apostle Islands. David J. Cooper, editor. 1991. 179 pages.

Report on Phase I Marine Magnetometer Survey in Death's Door Passage, Door County, Wisconsin, 1989. David J. Cooper and Bradley A. Rodgers. 1990. 52 pages.

Survey of the Submerged Cultural Resources in Northern Door County: 1988 Field Season Report. David J. Cooper. 1989. Second printing 74 pages.

To order a publication, contact: Publications Editor, Office of the State Archeologist, Division of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State St., Madison, WI 53706, for a price list and information on other publications.

Sheboygan

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nal, but before they could reach the Cooper the vessel capsized. The life saving crew was unable to reach the men in the water because of the lumber cargo which was thrashing about wildly in the storm.

While returning to shore for a larger boat, the life saving crew was met by the tug Peter Reiss. The Reiss towed the life saving boat through the floating debris and assisted in the safe recovery of five crewmen from the Cooper.

A sixth crewman, who attempted to reach shore on a stack of floating planks, was lost. The Cooper broke up and sank in the area in front of Harbor Centre's new boat ramps.

THE COL. ALBERT

In addition to recovering portions of the Lottie Cooper, dredging in Sheboygan harbor also recovered parts of the Col. Albert.

Fabricated in Pittsburg and assembled in Buffalo, the Col. Albert was launched in 1842. The 100-foot, sidewheeler was designed for use by the federal Lake Survey Department, and was renamed the Surveyor in 1845.

From 1845 to 1878, the Surveyor conducted surveys of Lakes Superior, Michigan

and Huron. In 1878, she was sold out of government service in Duluth, and became an excursion boat on the St. Clair River named the Julia.

In 1883, the Julia was sold to C.B. Freyberg of Sheboygan and was used to tow rafts of logs on Green Bay. In the early 1890s, the sidewheeler was stripped and abandoned outside of what was then the limits of the Sheboygan harbor.

Most of the vessel's remains were re-

moved during the construction of a yacht club in 1939. However, dredging operations in 1992 recovered over 1.5 tons of metal from the vessel, including its stern.

Most of the recovered material has been turned over to the Corps of Engineer's Canal Park Museum in Duluth. Some still remains near the wreckage of the Cooper. The challenge for city officials is how to preserve the remaining portions of both the Cooper and the Col. Albert.

Meeting

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& Recreational Resources, 133 Natural Resources Building, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Dave Cooper reported that legislative efforts are continuing to find funding for the Wisconsin underwater cultural resources management program that passed last year. The program's management council will hold its first meeting on Friday, May 21.

Tom Villand discussed the possibility of a joint book publishing project with the Madison area scuba club. The book would look at the history of Madison area lakes, and local diving opportunities and resources.

The membership tentatively approved a \$500 commitment to the project. A final

decision on the book project will be made at the fall meeting, at which time a detailed cost estimate will be presented.

The speakers portion of the spring meeting included a presentation by George Burridge on his experiences writing the book, Green Bay Workhorses: The Nau Tug Line. In addition, John Jensen presented an update on his work along the Northern Mississippi for the Corps of Engineers.

Al Brown presented a series of videos on Wisconsin shipwrecks that he had produced for Channel 18 in Milwaukee.

The meeting ended with a discussion of ways to increase WUAA's membership, particularly among non-diving groups such as local historical societies. To that end, a new membership brochure will be produced in time for the fall meeting.

WUAA Membership Application



As a private, non-profit organization, the Wisconsin Underwater Archeological Association presents an opportunity for both individuals and organizations to participate in and contribute to state efforts in u/w archeological research and preservation. Dues are \$15 per year.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evenings _____

We would like your input on the types of goals the association should have:

- ☐ Documentation of state underwater archeological sites
- ☐ Training individuals in u/w archeological methods
- ☐ Exchange of information between members
- ☐ Preservation of state underwater archeological sites
- ☐ Public education on underwater heritage
- ☐ Creation of state underwater preserves
- ☐ Others: _____

I would like to be involved in the following activities:

- ☐ Archival research
- ☐ Training in archeological methods
- ☐ On-site work - shoreside
- ☐ On-site work - underwater
- ☐ Association Committees:
- ☐ Newsletter ☐ Organization
- ☐ Training ☐ Membership
- ☐ Other: _____

Make \$15 check payable to "WUAA" and mail with this form to:
Wis. Underwater Archeological Association - P.O. Box 6081 - Madison, WI 53715

WUAA 1993 Summer Fieldwork

First Project: June 12-13

Location: Leathem & Smith Quarry
Sturgeon Bay

We will be continuing work on the Joseph L. Hurd and Mueller (see page 1 for details, or call Tom Villand at 608-221-1996 or Dave Neudek at 608-246-0351). During the weekend, members will also be discussing additional projects and programs in July and August (see inside for details).

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March-May 1993

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For those interested in studying and
preserving Wisconsin's underwater history