

# Underwater Heritage

Vol. 6 No. 2

A publication of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association

Summer 1996

## Great Lakes Update

### MILWAUKEE CLIPPER

Since March, the former Milwaukee Clipper has been docked in the Calumet River on the south side of Chicago surrounded by a coal yard and a mineral grinding plant.

The 361-foot ship was moved out of the marina in Hammond, Ind. where it has been located for the past six years to make room for a new casino boat operation. The casino operator, Empress Casino Hammond Corp., paid for the move and has pre-paid the Clipper's dock fees through May 1998.

What happens to the 91-year-old vessel is up in the air at this point. Although the ship has an estimated scrap value of over \$270,000, the current owners are willing to give the vessel away for free.

According to press reports, there has been some interest from parties in both Milwaukee and Muskegon, Mich. However, because of the ship's age and the extensive use of lead paint and asbestos in her 1941 reconstruction, the cost of restoration of the Clipper for museum ship purposes is estimated to be in the millions.

### S.S. KEEWATIN

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget cuts have put the brakes on plans to tow the retired passenger steamer Keewatin from Saugatuck, Mich. to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

A committee of local civic and business leaders have worked for over a year on plans to bring the ship to Thunder Bay for use as a multi-purpose tourist attraction.

Since local sources have been unable to come up with the \$100,000 the Corps needs to tow the vessel, the committee has reportedly been disbanded. For more than 60 years before it was retired in 1965, the Keewatin cruised between Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) and Port Nichol on Georgian Bay. In recent years, the vessel has been operated as a museum ship in southwest Michigan.

### CARFERRY VIKING

The former carferry Viking has been towed from Manitowoc, Wis. to Port Stanley, Ontario where local interests plan to restore the vessel to passenger service between Port

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## Fall Meeting set for October 5 at West Point Dive Park in Lohrville

The 1996 Fall Meeting of the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association will be held at the West Point Dive Park on Saturday, October 5, at the West Point Dive Park in Lohrville, Wis.

The Association's business meeting will begin rain or shine at 10 a.m. During the afternoon there will be a training workshop and dives on artifact documentation.

Members can also assist in work on a new u/w archeological site training facility that is being built at the park for WUAA use. Admission to the park will be free for Association members (\$5 for non-members).

### WEST POINT DIVE PARK

Located approximately two miles southwest of Red Granite (see map on page 2), West Point Dive Park is the newest addition to the Waushara County Park system.

Work on the former granite quarry began in 1993. Current park facilities include a picnic area, rest rooms and a level waterfront beach area with a deep water dock.

With a maximum depth of 45 feet, West Point Dive Park provides a relatively safe facility for training programs. An air-fill station is also available at the park which is

being managed for Waushara County by WUAA member Craig Fink of Inland Seas Diving Academy of Neenah.

### BUSINESS MEETING

During the business meeting, the results of the 1996 summer fieldwork season will be discussed along with plans for a maritime history conference for the 1997 Spring WUAA Meeting.

Members are also encouraged to submit sites for survey/documentation work during the 1997 summer fieldwork season. Tentative plans call for continuing support for State Historical Society work next year, and new Association projects in Door County.

The Door County Association sites include the Adriatic near Bay Shipbuilding in Sturgeon Bay, and the wreck of two scow schooners in Fish Creek. State Historical Society projects may include the wreck of the Chamberlain near Sheboygan.

Association members will also be asked for their input on plans to conduct a major membership drive this spring. Also under discussion is the expansion of the WUAA newsletter to include more pages, stories and graphics.

## Museum News

### Work begins on new Door Cty. facility

The Door County Maritime Museum celebrated the official groundbreaking for its new Sturgeon Bay museum on July 6, 1996.

The \$1.2 million facility will be built on the city's west side waterfront and will replace an aging facility on the Sturgeon Bay's east side.

The new museum's foundation is being placed on pilings to both meet floodplain regulations and give the building an elevated "on-a-pedestal" look according to the project's architects.

In other news, the Door County Maritime Museum continues to make progress on its

membership goal of 500 which officials had hoped to reach by August 3, the date of the museum's annual Classic Wooden Boat Show.

### WISCONSIN MARITIME MUSEUM

In July, Isacco Valli was named the new director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.

Valli has been the museum's assistant director and curator since 1987 and has served as acting director since September 1995. One of his first major challenges will be arranging for the dry-docking and hull

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## Wisconsin's Underwater Heritage

is published by the Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association, a non-profit association of individuals and organizations who are interested in studying and preserving the underwater cultural resources and historical sites of Wisconsin.

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## Great Lakes Update

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Stanley and Cleveland.

It is reported that the new Port Stanley Cleveland Ferry Corp. has spent \$3 million (CD) to buy the vessel and plans to spend \$1 million (CD) more to renovate the ship.

On the Cleveland end, the PSCFC is working with the Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority on plans to use one of the port's docks as a terminal. Although the cross-lake ferry service would initially serve just passengers, the group's long-term plans envision adding vehicle and freight traffic.

In a related note, plans to locate the Viking's Port Stanley terminal at an existing dock along the east side of Kettle Creek is causing protests from local commercial fishermen who have used the dock for decades. Currently the vessel is moored at the port's east side coal docks.

### TUG STEVEN M. SELVICK

In early June, the tug Steven M. Selvick was sunk and became part of the Alger Underwater Preserve in Lake Superior near Munising, Mich.

The 71-foot tug had been towed from Sturgeon Bay, Wis. to Munising last year and underwent several months of preparation by volunteers prior to its sinking. The Selvick is the first vessel ever to be purposely sunk in a Michigan preserve.

In a related note, the Alger Underwater Preserve and the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore were featured as part of a special advertising section in *Newsweek* recently.

The section was sponsored by Ford Motor Co. and sought to recognize the private/public partnerships that are helping the nation's parks and recreational areas.

### LADY ELGIN

This past St. Patrick's Day, a historical marker was dedicated in what had been the heavily Irish third ward of Milwaukee.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society marker commemorates the wreck of the steamer *Lady Elgin* on Sept. 8, 1860 off Winnetka, Ill. Of the 297 people who died in the tragedy, most were of Irish descent and from the Third Ward.

Historians point to the disaster as the beginning of the decline of Irish dominance of civic and business affairs in Milwaukee and one of the reasons for the rising influence of German immigrants in the years to come.

### GREAT LAKES CRUISES

The *Niagara Prince*, an 80-passenger vessel operated by the American Canadian Caribbean Line (ACCL) is being operated on the Great Lakes this summer.

The ACCL is considered an industry pioneer in the area of small ship cruise operations and was the first to offer multi-day Great Lakes cruises after the popular cruise ships *North America* and *South America* ceased operations in the 1960s.

Also offering multi-day cruises on the Great Lakes this summer is the *Nantucket Clipper* which is operated by Clipper Cruise Line of St. Louis. On the St. Lawrence River, the 108-foot steamship replica *Canadian Empress* is providing service for up to

## West Point Dive Park

### CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

Located approximately one mile west of Lohrville, Wis., West Point Dive Park is the newest addition to the Waushara County Park system. The park has been designed to meet the needs of both beginner and advanced SCUBA divers, and is less than one hour west of Oshkosh and just two hours north of Madison.

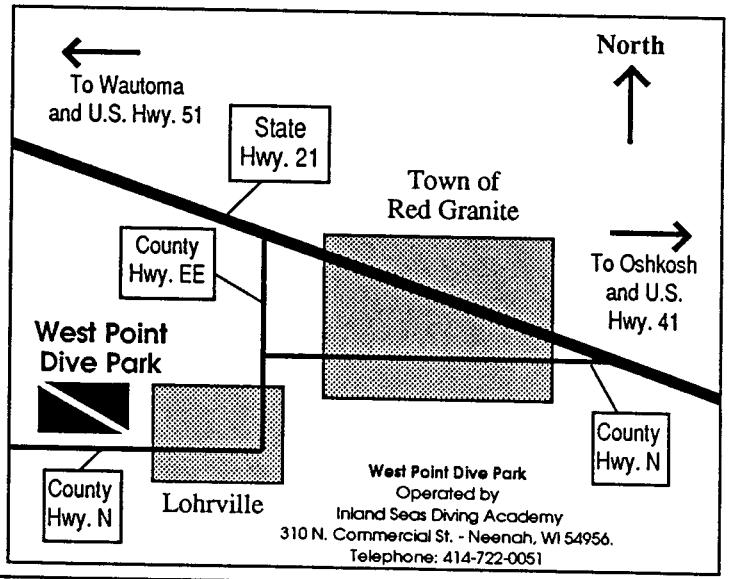
### PICNIC AND WATERFRONT FACILITIES

Work began on the park in 1993, and current facilities include a large picnic and waterfront area at the former granite quarry site. The park is being managed for Waushara County by Inland Seas Diving Academy of Neenah.

### IDEAL OPEN WATER TRAINING SITE

With a maximum depth of 45 feet and a level beach front area, West Point Dive Park provides a relatively safe facility for beginning divers and their instructors. An air-fill station is also available at the park.

### Wisconsin's Newest Dive Park in Scenic Waushara County



## Update

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66 passengers between its home port in Kingston, Ontario, and Montreal, Ottawa, and Quebec City.

According to Clipper President Paul Duynhouwer, the market is more sophisticated than in past years. "I believe the focus on small-ship travel to interesting destinations is a concept that will continue to attract a growing audience."

For more info. on cruises, contact American Canadian Caribbean (800-556-7450); Clipper Cruise Line (800-325-0010), or St. Lawrence Cruise Lines (800-267-7868).

### U.S. SHIP TOURS

Several U.S. Department of Defense vessels toured the Great Lakes this summer.

Among them was the U.S. Army Vessel *Runnymede* completed a 25-port tour of Great Lakes that began in Duluth, Minn. on June 22 and ended in Cleveland, Ohio on July 26. The *Runnymede* is a utility landing craft and is one of 18 vessels on active duty with the U.S. Army.

### SUPER YACHT TO BE BUILT

The largest private yacht built in the United States since the 1930s is now under construction at the Palmer Johnson shipyard in Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

The 185-foot vessel is reportedly being built for a "well-known Asian yachtsman and entrepreneur" who previously purchased a 150-foot yacht from Palmer-Johnson. According to company officials, the customer has ordered a new one because "he wanted more room."

The U.S. lost most of its mega-yacht buyers to European competitors at the start of the Great Depression 65 years ago. The federal luxury tax imposed on yachts in 1993 eroded what remained of the industry. Although the tax was rescinded in 1994, Palmer Johnson has historically prospered primarily on overseas orders.

### BALLAST WATER RESEARCH

On July 23, the Great Lakes Governors Council made a \$1 million commitment from the Great Lakes Protection Fund to develop technology that will prevent the transfer of pests, pathogens and parasites in the ballast water of commercial ships.

George Ryan, president of the Lake Carriers' Association, and Richard Munson, executive director of the Northeast Midwest Institute are co-chairs of the project team that will develop the new technology.

The team will conduct tests aboard the

*Algonorth* which has been provided at no cost to the project by its owner, Algoma Central Marine.

### CLEVELAND BICENTENNIAL

The City of Cleveland is celebrating its 200th anniversary with the unveiling of three new permanent attractions along its lakefront.

The multi-million dollar Great Lakes Science Center was officially opened on July 20. The museum has 350 hands-on exhibits and is next to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Cleveland visitors will find it easier to get from lakefront attractions to the Flats entertainment district thanks to the new Waterfront Line, a 2.2 mile light rail circuit. The line will also enable visitors to appreciate the \$4.4 million in decorative lighting that city officials have placed on the eight bridges that cross the Cuyahoga River.

### GREAT LAKES TOURISM

Excursion and cruise ship operations on the Great Lakes was the topic of one of the major sessions during the International Great Lakes St. Lawrence Mayors' Conference in Quebec in June.

Other sessions examined environmental issues, public policy's affect on the transportation industry in the Great Lakes. The conference concluded with a presentation

on the Quebec region.

### TITANIC EXHIBIT

This summer, the Science Museum of Minnesota's Omitheatre sponsored a showing of the film *Titanica* which was shot during the 1991 exploration of the wreck by the world largest research vessel, *Akademik Keldysh*.

Award-winning filmmaker Stephen Low worked with scientists from Canada, Russia and the U.S. as they examined and conducted scientific research on the wreck of the R.M.S. *Titanic*.

### HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 1996 State History Conference of the Historical Society of Michigan had a special emphasis on maritime topics.

The 122nd annual conference was held in Ludington, Mich. on September 21-22. During the conference, participants heard a series of presentations including a keynote address by the renowned maritime historian George W. Hilton.

In addition to presentations, there was also a tour of historic White Pine Village and a trip aboard the S.S. *Badger* which included tours of the pilot house and engine room of the ship. Conferees also toured the Wisconsin Maritime Museum.

## 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 underwater archeological research and preservation. Dues are \$15 per year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involved in the following activities:

#### Fieldwork & Research:

<input type="checkbox"/> Archival research	<input type="checkbox"/> Training in archeological methods
<input type="checkbox"/> On-site work - shoreside	<input type="checkbox"/> On-site work - underwater
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

#### Association Committees:

<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership

Make \$15 check payable to "WUAA" and mail to:  
**Wisconsin Underwater Archeology Association**  
**P.O. Box 6081 - Madison, WI 53716**

## Museum News

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repair project for the U.S.S. Cobia which began in early September. Also during July, the Maritime Museum held its 1996 summer children's workshops.

### CANAL PARK MUSEUM

The June-July 1996 issue of *Lake Superior Magazine* contained an article on the "Boatwatchers' Hotline" which is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's Canal Park Museum.

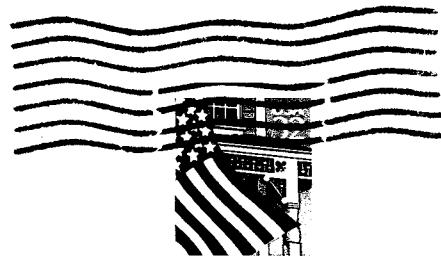
The hot line receives an average of 250 calls per day during the Port of Duluth's 10 month shipping season. The shipping schedules are also displayed on six color monitors located in the Canal Park Museum.

Located adjacent to the Duluth Shipping Canal, the Museum also announces the pending arrival of incoming vessels over its public address system when the vessels are approximately one mile out, and provides a description of the vessel's size, carrying capacity and ownership when it passes alongside the museum.

## Upcoming Maritime Events

Oct. 5	<b>WUAA Fall Meeting</b> (see page 1 for details) Site: West Point Dive Park near Red Granite, Wis. For more info., contact Tom Villand at (608) 221-1996 or Bob O'Donnell at (715) 842-1762.
Oct. 10-12	<b>Shipwrecks of the Great Lakes</b> , a conference sponsored by the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office in cooperation with the Gales of November Committee. Site: Radisson Hotel in Duluth, Minn. For more info., contact Michele Decker of the Minnesota SHPO at (612) 296-5434.
Oct. 18-20	<b>Save Ontario Shipwrecks 1996 General Meeting and Annual Forum</b> . Site: Port Dover, Ontario. For more info., contact SOS, 2175 Sheppard Ave. East, Ste. 310; Willowdale, Ontario M2J 1W8; (216) 491-2373.
Oct. 18-21	<b>First Annual Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival</b> sponsored by the Huron Lights/Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival Inc. Site: Alpena, Mich. For more info., contact GLLFI, 70447 Fisher Road, Romeo, MI 48065; (810) 752-5472.
Oct. 19	<b>Lake Ontario Conference of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association</b> . Site: Kingston, Ontario. For more info., write GLLKA, Henry Ford Estate, 4901 Evergreen Rd., Dearborn, MI 48128; (313) 436-9150.

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Summer 1996

Fall Meeting at West Point Dive Park  
 on Saturday, October 5, 1996