

Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. Donates Whaleback 'Ericsson' to Hamilton

J. D. Leitch, president of Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd. has presented, on behalf of the Company, the veteran whaleback *John Ericsson* to the City of Hamilton. The gift has been formally acknowledged by Mayor Victor Copps and will be used as a marine museum.

This month the *Ericsson* was towed to its resting place in the lagoon off Hamilton's Confederation Park, watched by thousands of citizens. The anchored vessel will be visible to the hundreds of thousands of Canadians and Americans, who travel on the Queen Elizabeth Way between Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Falls or other border cities.

The *John Ericsson* had a wonderful record. Built in 1896 she steamed continuously for nearly 70 years. Upper Lakes Shipping acquired her in 1937 and her strange shape, becoming more unique each year as her contemporaries went to the scrap heap, marked her as an oddity among Lake shipping.

WELLAND CANAL DIARY

'Welland Canal Diary' continues to be heard nightly at 6.15 (DST), except Sunday when it is broadcast at 10.45 a.m. (DST), the programs coming from CKTB Radio station in St. Catharines, beamed to the shipping industry, mariners and visitors in the Niagara area (dial 610 AM and 97.7 FM).

Port Weller Dry Docks Limited is one of the three sponsors of this special marine service which will continue throughout the summer.

Hamilton Harbor commissioner Ken R. Elliott who with Alderman Reg Wheeler has been very active in carrying through the transfer of the vessel from Upper Lakes Shipping to the City of Hamilton, says the ship will be sandblasted and repainted. When the job is finished the *Ericsson* will once again be wearing the insignia and the red-and-white diamond of Upper Lakes Shipping on its smokestack.

The vessel was named after the famous Swedish-American inventor who designed the battleship *Monitor* that sank the Confederate ironclad *Merrimac* at Hampton Roads in 1862. Ericsson, who built the engines and propeller for the first steamship ever to cross the Atlantic, was undoubtedly the greatest naval engineer of his time.

Ship-Shore News takes this opportunity of saluting the man whose memory has been so ably honored by a ship that also became a Great Lakes celebrity in her time.

Whalebacks

Our next issue will carry an article on Whalebacks by the well-known Great Lakes historian, the Rev. Edward J. Dowling, curator of the Marine Historical Collection, University of Detroit.

Great Lakes 'Senior Citizen' Retires



The old whaleback *John Ericsson* anchored in the lagoon of Confederation Park, Hamilton, hard by the Queen Elizabeth Way, where she will serve as a marine museum.

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