

Replica Of LaSalle's Griffin Should Have Outboard

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Something of the lure which ships and exploration have for modern man can be seen in a number of recent instances where men have built replicas of famous vessels and attempted to retrace their voyages.

The latest is the 117-day voyage across the Atlantic made by a group which built a replica of the Nina, Columbus' smallest ship, and attempted to duplicate the explorer's 1492 crossing. They succeeded in reaching the New World, but in a considerably longer time than Columbus' 70-day voyage.

In recent years there have been built replicas of H.M.S. Bounty (admittedly for commercial purposes) and of the primitive raft upon which it is believed that early men crossed the Pacific.

Great Lakes navigation has seen no such attempt at recreating history. But there is

still time — and indeed possibly an excuse — for building a replica of the first ship on the Lakes.

It was in 1679, 284 years ago next shipping season, that the explorer and fur trader LaSalle sent his tiny Griffin from Lake Erie to the present site of Green Bay, Wisconsin. This was the first sailing ship on the Great Lakes.

There would, of course, be difficulties in building a replica of the Griffin and repeating the trip, possibly on the 300th anniversary in 1979. The original Griffin, with its cargo of furs, vanished with all its crew. There has been disagreement about what happened to it, and even about its size and shape. But it might still be possible to re-enact the voyage of the Griffin, even with an outboard motor stowed aboard as a tribute to progress.

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History

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

The French explorer LaSalle reached the Niagara Falls 284 years ago today — in 1679. LaSalle, discoverer of the Mississippi delta, came to Canada in 1667 and made several fur-trading and exploring expeditions before he was killed by a mutineer of his party in what now is Texas.

1959 — Gen. de Gaulle was elected president of France.



EVEN FIREMEN HAVE COFFEE BREAKS . . . after the fire is under control of course. Burlington firefighters begin clean-up operations after an \$80,000 blaze was extinguished early last Thursday. The fire destroyed a restaurant, barber shop and gift store at Plains and Waterdown Roads, as well as the apartments above, leaving four people homeless. The building was 120 years old and was used as a stage coach stop, toll station and hotel before the three stores were constructed.