

It is our understanding that two of Canada Steamship Lines' lake-built but ocean-operated self-unloaders have now been re-registered in the Far East and renamed. One is ATLANTIC HURON (II), (a) PRAIRIE HARVEST (89), which as recently as early September had been flagged-out of Canada and registered in the Bahamas. We now learn that she has been re-registered again and has been renamed (c) ATLANTIC HONG KONG, while the 1982-built ATLANTIC SUPERIOR has become (b) ATLANTIC JOHORE. We have no idea what trade these vessels will now engage in but we must assume that they will voyage farther afield than in the past.

An interesting recent scrap sale, as per an August 3rd, 1990, report, was the Nauru National Shipping Line's ENNA G., which was sold as is, lying at the Marshall Islands, to Thai breakers. The vessel had been laid up since 1983 and was to be delivered to the breakers under tow. The ship was the former PRINSES MARGRIET, one-time flagship of the Oranje Line's combination passenger and freight service between the Great Lakes and Europe.

Throughout the 1990 season, the passenger steamer AQUARAMA has continued to lie idle at her wharf on the Windsor waterfront. The possibility of her ever being made into a convention facility at Port Stanley, as planned, has become ever more remote as time passed. Now we hear that engineers have been working aboard the vessel recently, attempting to put her machinery into working order. It seems that AQUARAMA either has been or soon will be acquired by overseas operators for European (Mediterranean?) cruise service. She supposedly will be towed to Miami for refitting and then towed overseas. Even though she will make these trips under tow, the as-yet-unidentified new owners want to have her machinery in fully operational condition for the long tows. Stay tuned as we see what may become of these ambitious plans for the old and long-idle ship.

Back at the beginning of the year, it was announced that the Cargill Grain Company was closing down operations at its big elevator at Port McNicoll, Ontario, and that the structure, which had been built back in 1911-1912, would be demolished during the spring. Nevertheless, the elevator was not taken down and still stands today. In fact, the news for the town gets even better than that, because we understand that there is a good possibility that the elevator will soon be acquired by new owners who intend to operate it once again. The elevator originally was built for the Canadian Pacific Railway, which until recent years operated it as a transfer facility between lake steamers and the railway. It is our understanding that the new owners would use the elevator in the same manner.

Will wonders never cease? Many observers had imagined that the big barge which had been built at Ontonagon, Michigan, by the now-defunct and money-hole Upper Peninsula Shipbuilding Company, would never make her way to the water. A big tug, and this barge which she was to tow, were built by the state-funded shipyard with the intent that they operate in carferry service across Lake Michigan as replacements for the former Ann Arbor Railroad car-ferries, but before they could be completed, the ferry route was abandoned and the shipyard was awash in a sea of financial and legal difficulties. The "Ontonagon Tug" (as everybody called it) finally was hauled away from the shipyard late in 1988 and was taken to the Soo, from where in the summer of 1989 she was towed to the Gulf of Mexico for operation by her purchaser, the Marine Specialty Company, of Texas. The same firm acquired the unlaunched barge as well, but despite many plans to get her from her building ways to the water, little actual progress seemed to be made. We now learn that she recently was hauled overland from the ways to the water and was launched into Ontonagon harbour on October 25, 1990. It seems probable that the un-named barge soon will be taken away from Lake Superior, on her way to Texas to be hauled around the Gulf of Mexico by the tug which originally was designed to be her partner on the Lake Michigan carferry service.