

THE RETURN OF MAPLEHILL

In the October issue, we featured the canal-sized steamer HADDINGTON (19), (b) MAPLEHILL (II)(38), (c) OAKBRANCH (I)(42), (d) EMPIRE LIZARD (46), (e) BASINGBROOK, as our Ship of the Month No.185. Only one reader spoke up to tell us that this was a repetition of a previous feature. Surely enough, we also used this vessel as Ship of the Month No. 131 back in the issue of October, 1984!

How we managed a duplication of this nature we do not know, for usually we check our list of prior features before setting out to write a new feature. Somehow we missed in this case, perhaps because we just found the story of this freighter so interesting. To our way of thinking, the most recent article about MAPLEHILL was the better and more complete of the two, and we hope that our readers will excuse our lapse.

By the way, we do have a "wish list" of ships that some day we may use for features in "Scanner", but some of them are as yet impossible because of a lack of detail. However, we always are in the market for suggestions, and we value any input from our readers. It is difficult for us to now what our members might find of interest unless they let us know what they want.

Having a list of possible features for future issues also helps us to work ahead on the necessary research and produce more complete histories than otherwise might be possible, so let those suggestions flow...

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OFFERINGS FROM FRESHWATER PRESS

T.M.H.S. member John O. Greenwood, author of the Namesakes books, has produced Volume One of The Fleet Histories Series, being a comprehensive history of the related Mack, Becker, Jenkins, England, Seither and Midland Steamship Line fleets, all of Cleveland. The book is the product of very extensive research into the often-obscure doings of these long-defunct companies, and yields a great quantity of very valuable information which otherwise would not be available to the average shipping observer.

The book is in 8½" by 11" format, 125 pages, and is well illustrated with many rare photos of the ships owned by the various companies. The volume has some weaknesses, one being that full-size, opposite-page photos are placed at 180° rotation which makes viewing awkward and dangerous to the health of the book. As well, a convenient method of cross-referencing vessels between fleets would be desirable, as would more intensive proof-reading before printing.

The volume, however, should be in the library of any serious lake historian. The softcover version is available for U.S.\$16.85, while the hardcover is U.S.\$25.10, both prices including shipping.

Also available from Freshwater Press is the 1991 Lakeboats Calendar. The twelve-month, spiral-bound, 9" x 12" calendar features excellent colour photos of various lake ships together with pertinent details about each ship portrayed. The calendar may be had for U.S.\$10.50 including shipping.

For either publication, address Freshwater Press Inc., 1700 East 13th Street, Suite 3E-E, Cleveland, Ohio 44114, U.S.A., or phone (216) 241-0373.

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-- "The Toronto Drydock", made out of the former coaster MENIER CONSOL, and operated by Norman Rogers, lifted its first ship this autumn when Rogers' 136-foot sailing vessel EMPIRE SANDY was docked for inspection and the scraping of zebra mussels from her hull. The drydock is moored in the Leslie Street slip off the Turning Basin.