

"On Monday, our own national holiday, the WINONA gaily sailed away with a great crowd made up of the glass (plant) employees and their friends bound for Detroit.

"When Tuesday morning dawned the noisy Anniversary of our American cousins, the steamer's decks were redecked (sic) by a merry crowd to patronize the excursion gotten up by the ladies of the Catholic church, to take advantage of the attractions at Port Huron, in the way of Automobile races, yacht races, etc. Still there were many who watched the weather anxiously.

"But when Thursday morning broke, the only thing that effected (sic) the atmosphere was the sultry friction of competition, all Wallaceburg that were able to be up with the sun were down at the riverside looking for fun. And the most surprising part of it was that the multitude were there with the price and with good enough reasons for taking in the sail, even the chronic stay at-homes were on hand to see the boats and then staid (sic) at home.

"WINONA soon had her limit of passengers, 350, and had to cease selling tickets. This was the greatest load the boat ever carried out of town, and the Captain feels highly gratified with the patronage bestowed. Besides this she had a large quantity of frieght (sic) on board. Competition was certainly the life of trade that day and seemed to be the source of success, for besides the WINONA realizing very handsomely, the steamer CITY OF CHATHAM, under the auspices of the Baptist church, gave an excursion to Belle Isle, and it was surprisingly well patronized, the church realizing over \$82.00 as their share after paying a big sum for chartering the boat, a decided success.

"On Friday, the WINONA also carried a great crowd of Dresdenites to Walpole (Island)."

If only whoever penned this article could be sent for some remedial courses in grammar and spelling... But still we can see how popular WINONA's excursions were. The newspaper had advertised the trip of Thursday, July 6th, 1905, as a "Cheap Excursion to Detroit", with a round trip fare of only 35¢. It is no wonder that so many people turned up at the dock seeking tickets! The notice continued: "This is the WINONA's regular trip. Boat leaves town dock at 7 a.m. sharp, leaving Detroit at 4 p.m., our time." A handsome photo of WINONA illustrated the advertisement.

Thursday was WINONA's regular day to run to Detroit in 1905. Each Monday, she departed Wallaceburg at 9:40 a.m., bound for Windsor, and there she stayed overnight, departing Windsor for Wallaceburg again on Tuesday morning at 9:00, "Windsor time". On Wednesday, she made a Sarnia trip "calling at all intermediate ports", departing Wallaceburg at 7:00 a.m. and sailing from Sarnia at 4:00 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays were open for "private excursions" and, of course, nothing was scheduled for Sundays.

Those private excursions were great events for the participants. Gordon Shaw was raised in Wallaceburg, and his parents were staunch members of the Methodist (now Trinity United) Church. They recalled Sunday School picnics that included trips on local steamboats, including WINONA, and Alan Mann's photo of WINONA that accompanies this article shows the steamer on just such an excursion. Mrs. Shaw was active in the church's Epworth League, which produced plays and other events. One of the Epworth meetings featured an evening trip to Dresden on WINONA, and during the stopover, the Wallaceburg Epworths had a joint meeting with the Epworth League of Dresden.

Alan Mann also recalls that his late father spoke fondly of WINONA on many occasions, remembering happy times aboard the steamer. One of the most popular picnic destinations in those years was Highbanks Park, which was located on Walpole Island, near the mouth of the Chenal Ecarte and, no doubt, WINONA would have called there on many occasions. For a glimpse of Highbanks, we would direct readers to the back side of the photopage in our Mid-Summer 1993 issue, which featured a view of CITY OF CHATHAM and BYRON TRERICE moored at the park wharf. Excursionists are visible in the park near the