

We are quite aware that those of you living in the Great Lakes area, having suffered through a summer and autumn replete with nasty weather, will not be anxious to think of things having to do with winter. But the fact remains that navigation soon will close and our ships will be in winter quarters.

"Scanner" is known for the accuracy and completeness of the lay-up lists which it publishes each year, and we see no reason to drop this popular feature, which does much to promote the participation of our members. We propose to run the current listings in our upcoming February issue.

Accordingly, as soon as navigation has ended, please take a tour around any ports close to where you reside, and jot down the names of the ships wintering there (being certain, please, to be accurate and not to "guess" the name of any ship). We usually list major commercial vessels, but we will include ferries, tugs, etc., if you will identify them to us as such in your list.

In the past, we have encountered problems in obtaining lists for the ports of Lake Michigan, and for certain areas of the south shore of Lake Erie, so we would particularly appreciate hearing from readers in those areas.

Our lay-up lists are of considerable historical value, and researchers in the future will, we hope, derive as much information from them as we have been able to obtain from lists appearing in various publications of many years ago. We will greatly appreciate hearing from any of you who can contribute, and please don't worry about duplication; more than one list for each port will allow us to double-check for accuracy. Remember that if every member held back because we might already have listings for his/her local ports, then we would receive no reports at all!

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#### A NEW GREAT LAKES VIDEO

Yellow Lab Productions, of the Soo, has created a new marine video which may be of interest to our readers. We normally review in these pages only books, films, etc., produced by T.M.H.S. members, and although the principals of Yellow Lab are not in that category, much of the photography in the film is credited to well-known T.M.H.S. member Capt. Graham Grattan, and so we have no difficulty reviewing the video for our readers.

**Great Lakes Ships in Action - Volume I** runs about 40 minutes and features over 100 ships, both lakers and salties seen in lake settings. Most of the footage is fairly recent, so do not expect to see any historic material. At times, the film may seem repetitive, because many of the scenes have been shot in the same Upper St. Mary's River setting, but the photography itself is of excellent quality, with many interesting lighting and weather effects.

The film's music is somewhat pretentious; the icebreaker MACKINAW is accompanied by Richard Strauss' majestic "Also Sprach Zarathustra", while the self-unloader FRONTENAC, looking much work-worn, hardly fits amongst the inspirational strains of Richard Rodgers' "You'll Never Walk Alone". And the music unexpectedly gives way now and then to whistles, engine noises, the breaking of ice, or marine radio calls, which sometimes seem intrusive.

One major problem is the lack of narration of any sort. The film would be interesting to anybody who wants to see lots of boats in action, but viewers are left on their own to identify ships, which could be a problem to those not expert at ship recognition. If not narration, then the odd screen title could be helpful, as some of the ships and their settings are unusual and beg description.

The video sells for \$39.95 Canadian. Ontario residents must add 8% P.S.T., and all Canadian residents should add 7% G.S.T. All customers should add \$3.50 packing and shipping (after tax). Orders should be addressed to Yellow Lab Productions, 191 Parkland Crescent, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario P6A 6M4.

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