

### CAPTAIN RICHARD FARLEY

It is with sadness that we record, albeit belatedly, the passing of Captain Richard Hanbidge ("Dick") Farley, of Chatsworth, Ontario, on March 16th, 1998, in his 70th year. He had undergone apparently successful triple-bypass and heart valve replacement surgery on January 18th, but just when it was thought that he had recovered, unexpected complications developed, and his passing came within a few days.

Dick Farley sailed the lakes for many years, beginning in 1944 when, at age 16, he took a summer job as dishwasher aboard the Owen Sound Transportation Company's wooden passenger and freight steamer CARIBOU. In 1945, Dick sailed as deckhand in the Diamond Steamship Company's canal-ler GEORGE HINDMAN (I), and he was in her for several years, advancing to wheelsman in the process. He then moved over to the Upper Lakes & St. Lawrence Transportation Company, where he wheeled in the canal-ler CHARLES R. HUNTLEY and the upper laker MAUNALOA II. While he was in the MAUNALOA, he obtained his 2nd Mate's license. He later went over to the canal-ler EDWIN T. DOUGLASS, and he eventually became her Mate. He obtained his Master Inland and Master Home Trade certificates whilst he was sailing for Upper Lakes.

Having purchased a farm near Chatsworth, he joined the Russel Brothers shipyard at Owen Sound, and he served as trials and delivery captain for ships built at the yard. He commanded the Toronto Island carferry ONGIARA (II) on her stormy delivery voyage from Owen Sound late in 1963, and in 1964 brought the new firetug WM. LYON MACKENZIE from Owen Sound to Toronto.

Dick Farley was, however, better known to T.M.H.S. members for the years he spent as master of the Toronto Island ferryboats, having joined the Metro Parks ferry service in 1967. He was the first regular master of the sidewheeler TRILLIUM when she was put back in service in 1976 after her major restoration. That he was sincerely interested in historical steamboats was proven not only by his expert handling of the sometimes cantankerous TRILLIUM, but also by the fact that, in October of 1980, Dick served as the first master of the restored Muskoka Lakes steamer SEGWUN as she ran her trial trips.

Following the passing of his wife, Mary McFarlane, in 1980, Dick left the Island ferry service and became one of the shift captains of the Toronto Fire Department's firetug WM. LYON MACKENZIE, a position he held until his retirement in 1991. Thereafter, he kept busy on his farm, and with much local volunteer work, notably with his church and with the Chatsworth Fall Fair.

Dick was a longtime member of the Toronto Marine Historical Society, joining shortly after its formation and carrying membership number 136. Even after his retirement from the lakes, he maintained his interest in ships and our Society, and your Editor enjoyed exchanging greetings with him each Christmas-time, right though Christmas of 1997.

Richard Farley was one of five children of Sherman L. Farley and Frances J. Hanbidge, and three of his siblings survive him. We extend special sympathy to his three daughters, Sharrie, Carol and Mary-Anne, and to their families, including six grandchildren.

\* \* \*

Our thanks to Capt. Gerry Ouderkirk for bringing the passing of Dick Farley to our attention, and to Sharrie Brick and Capt. John Barnes for their assistance in the preparation of this remembrance.

\* \* \* \* \*