

Nostalgic week for steamboater

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to your paper and in particular to staff writer Murray Moore for his excellent marine articles concerning the Sir James Dunn and the T.R. McLagan.

Having had a hand in the construction and launching of the McLagan at the Midland Shipyards in 1953-54, I watched with interest and a bit of nostalgia as the McLagan recently returned to the Tiffin Elevator with a load of grain, having previously been "on the wall" and destined for the scrap yard.

The past week has been extremely interesting along the waterfront. I have had the opportunity to talk to a number of "old steamboaters" and learn of their vast knowledge and history in this area.

At one time a large number of locals either worked at the Midland Shipyards and or sailed on the steamboats, and for those who sailed on such ships as the Martian, Yankanuck or Starbuck, sailing on the Sir James Dunn would have been a pleasure. A former Crew member of the Dunn recalls having the pilot house windows punched out during a gale on the Lake Erie which, viewing this massive hull as a land lubber is hard to visualize.

The economics of running the Dunn can be appreciated by viewing the new American 1,000 Footers, carrying 70,000 tons of ore with the same crew.

On a recent tour of the Great Lakes, at Thunder Bay, I saw the rusting hull of the C.S.L. "Georgian Bay" also destined for scrap. At Superior, Wisconsin, lies the last of the whalebacks, The Meteor serving as a marine museum as the old "Valley Camp" at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan (which coincidentally contains the two recovered lifeboats from the Edmund Fitzgerald.)

The last of the C.P.R. passenger boats, the Keewatin, lies also as a marine museum at Saugatun, Michigan.

The latest end to another era, I'm told, is the removal of "the legs" at grain elevators with modifications to accommodate the unloading of grain by the "self unloaders" which in turn will end another era, "the longshoremen."

I knew some of these men, who were part of a considerable work force, whose



A SOAP STAR GOMES TO MIDLAND

only means of combatting the dust was a "Casey Jones" hankie to filter it and a mickey of rye on the hip to wash down whatever escaped the hankie.

The removal of the Sir James Dunn, troubled by mechanical problems and November weather, is not only the removal from the Midland waterfront of a lot of liability and aggravation, but the end of another era of "steamboating on the Great Lakes."

Sincerely,
Jim Murray,
(Former Steamboater),
Midland

Honor outstanding hearing impaired woman

Dear Editor:

The goal of the Quota Club of Huronia is to work towards shattering silence. We strive to do this by making the public more aware of the problems, needs and achievements of the deaf and hearing impaired.

We believe an excellent way to work towards this goal is to have our club select and honor an outstanding deaf or hearing impaired woman of our community.

The woman from our community could become the Quota International

outstanding deaf woman of the year.

The women being considered have adjusted to their impairment, are educated and employed. They are active in the community and have unusual skills or aptitudes.

If you know such a woman, please submit her name to the Quota Club of Huronia, Box 663, Midland, Ontario L4R 4P4 or call 534-3681.

Yours in service to the hearing and speech impaired,
June Joynt President,
Quota Club of Huronia



Risky business

by Robert Risk

Just another victim of the system

Well, so far so good. I haven't gotten any parking tickets since last week's column.

After I got several comments from people on Main Street who told me I shouldn't rock the boat, I've been making sure I park so I can see my car from the office window.

Just a little paranoia, but more than a few people have said, "Just wait. Because of your article they're going to give out tickets now."

I became a little apprehensive because of this and, sure enough, on Friday I saw the police taking down license numbers on the street.

Some time later, Patricia Mueller, our next door neighbor from the North Simcoe

Arts Council here on Main Street, burst into the office, waving a ticket at me.

"You're a hypocrite, you know that? You complain about people parking on the street too long and there's your car sitting there all day. I hope you got a ticket too."

Actually, some days my car does sit there too long but I'm usually making several trips every day.

Many times I don't know how often I'll be in and out of the office, but I know that shouldn't be an excuse to park on the street all the time.

Patricia won't like this, but I didn't get a ticket. Apparently I was out on a story when the parking violations were being photographed.

Okay, I'll let the waves settle back down on this for now but just wait until I do get a ticket and then I'll complain about how us poor drivers are being victimized by the system.

As a new tenant of an apartment, I'm fairly conscious of my electrical bill since I don't have any idea of what the cost for my first month will be.

Because of this and the fact that I don't like wasting energy, I take care to turn all my lights off when I leave or go to sleep.

It struck me as a little strange when on Sunday at 11 p.m. I noticed the lights blazing from PC candidate Doug Lewis's Penetanguishene office.

Conveniently located across from the town municipal office, the window was hard to miss from the gas station at the corner where I had stopped.

The big posters of Lewis were spectacularly backlit by the office's ceiling lights, outclassing even the Pen's movie posters from across the street.

Whether or not this was intentional (I'm sure they'll insist it wasn't), it's likely that the election contributors for Lewis wouldn't be too thrilled about their money being used to pay for this extra cost.

How's that? Just a little jab before the election that I couldn't resist.

Letters

The Penetanguishene Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. They must be legible, signed (by hand), and carry the writer's address and telephone number for verification purposes. Pen names are not allowed and anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld if circumstances warrant. Letters published by this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this newspaper, its publisher or editor.

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