



Ships h a p e

“The Queen of the Great Lakes”

S.S. Milwaukee Clipper



The previous issue was the “Volunteer Tribute” issue. But unfortunately we left out the “behind the scenes” people. We have a host of them, who attend many meetings throughout the year, spending their precious time (hour after hour) making telephone calls, asking for donations to support the Auction, then running around, picking up these items, then getting them ready for display, organizing them, logging and numbering each item. Making sure all companies and persons are recognized for their generosity. Some offering their homes to hold the meetings, usually once a month for about 5 months, then as crunch time approaches, the meetings are more frequent, down to one a week, then it’s every day of bundling items into baskets. We have a HUGE display of “Silent” auction items, plus those in the “Live” auction. The live auction items are usually very large (in size and value). We get Kayaks, cases of wine, trips and dinner offers in members’ homes, as well as overnight stays in hotels and motels, local and out-of-state. THEN all of this has to be taken to the Country Club, THEN we work all day at the Auction, itself.

So, we will be compiling these hours and adding them to the 53,000+ hours already reported. As you can see the “behind the scenes” hours will increase that number significantly. The hours reported in the last issue, are ‘just’ the hours spent on-board either doing restoration projects, or as a tour guide, or working in the museum store. On board, we have to sign in and out each day, so those hours are easier to keep track of, but those who go all over town to pick up donations, or attend meetings, either Auction or Board, they’re still hours spend with the *Clipper* as the main focus and should be included in the volunteer hours.

I’m happy that we caught this glitch and will be reporting large numbers in the future!!

Editor, Sandy Ferski

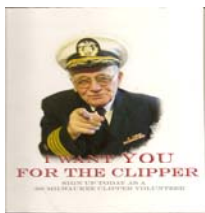
Note from the President:

Christmas is upon us already. My how the year went by. Another outstanding year on the *Clipper*. I would like to thank all our loyal volunteers for their dedication over the years and wish all volunteers and their families a very Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year. Thanks again for a great job.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS, EVERYONE!

John Stein



REMEMBRANCE & RESTORATION

Here we are again having come to the end of another active, construction and successful year. The upcoming Holiday Season, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, etc.

Looking back on this past year, we have a great deal to be thankful for. Once again, a banner year: Auction at the Muskegon Country Club (and looking forward to a repeat performance in 2015). A successful tourist season; Restoration projects moving along, etc. An increase in the Board of Directors membership and its professional know how. All in all, like good wine, it only gets better. Yes, there have been bumps in the road, but we are still heading in the right direction for a successful outcome.

One of the great happenings is at the end-of-the volunteer work season, was the “Thank You Dinner” for all of this year’s 2014 volunteers and all of the hard work they have done to make this such a great season.

The dinner wasn’t just a nice sit down dinner, but a special hands-on-special, by none other than Sandy and Dave Ferski, Veteran *Clipper* volunteers. A “First Class Presentation”.

One other event in the near future will be the annual volunteer Christmas party, at the McGraft Park Pavilion on December 18th, 2014 for all past, present and future *Clipper* volunteers. Maybe Santa might even show up and give Tom Bell that million dollar lottery ticket that he has been looking for.

One of our newest *Clipper* Board members is Bill Thurlow. Bill has been working on the *Clipper* as a volunteer for some time trying to blend in the City of Muskegon building codes and the existing marine system into one easier to understand system, so the average volunteer can handle his work more easily. Bill is retired from The Mell Trotter Foundation of Grand Rapids, as one of its directors. He brings to the *Clipper* a wealth of knowledge of building construction and maintenance. A great plus for the ship restoration.

One of the great happenings of this season was that United States Senator Carl Levin and his groups’ visit aboard the *Clipper* that was arranged by Connie Nesbary. It was great fun for all concerned. The Senator was very relaxed and everyone had a great time and he said he would like to return to the ship with family members, which certainly will be great.

To all who have donated their time, talent and finances etc., toward the success of the *Clipper*, we all thank you very much. We will succeed and get the job done!!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year



Smooth Sailing
Captain Bob Prierfer



Article from Ray Hilt

I had contacted Michigan Maritime Museum in South Haven this spring regarding a large collection of ship models they owned and were at that time on loan to the Icebreaker Mackinaw museum at Mackinac City. The collection, which featured over 30 models, was supposed to be returned to South Haven at that time. As it turned out, the loan was extended for another year.

I recontacted the Director of Michigan Maritime, Patty Montgomery, again this fall, thinking that the models would be moved back in the spring, only to find they were to be moved within the next couple of weeks. One of the models was a huge model of the Steamer Alabama, built for Shaw Walker. This model is in a case approximately 3ft.X 8ft. I used to visit him and the model and we exchanged pleasant letters regarding the model for some time before his death. His sons donated it to the Maritime Museum. It is a magnificently detailed model down to rivets in the hull.

For those who do not know the history of the Alabama, it was the "Queen of the Lakes" in it's time. It was owned by the Goodrich Transportation Co. and it's home port was the Goodrich Dock, now the Mart Dock. It was as familiar here in Muskegon into the 30's as the *Clipper* was in the 40's through the 70's, and a favorite of Mr. Walker.

To make a long story shorter, the arrangements were made for the models to be delivered here in Muskegon, instead of South Haven, on loan to us for a period of two years. There was a hitch, though, the conditions called for the Alabama model to be climate controlled, and we do not have such a place on the ship at this time. As a result of an extensive search for a spot for that big a model, we have an agreement with Marti Piette, director of the Muskegon County Airport, to put the model on display there for the period of the loan.

The models arrived, almost on time, Oct. 29th. We had a welcoming committee of Tom, Rick, Jim, Terry, Mike and I to unload the models. The models had been very poorly loaded in a UHAUL trailer, and the large pieces of glass that made up the case on the Alabama model were all broken. Fortunately, there was a representative of the Maritime Museum on hand to verify the damage. We could not leave the model at the airport, and Terry volunteered to have us put it in his heated antique car garage. It is there currently. We also got a tour of Terry's collection of AMC cars. I was impressed, having over the years owned 7 AMC Eagles.

We have corresponded with Patty at Michigan Maritime, and if we would replace the glass, they would give us a 10 yr. lease on that big model, with a renewable option. We have gotten estimates for the glass, after researching whether or not to replace with plexi or lexan, and the best estimate is for \$1137.42. We are going to take up a collection amongst us to pay for the glass. Anyone who would like to donate towards this would be more than welcome. If the insurance for the Mackinaw comes through, we will be reimbursed to what they pay.

Needless to say, the Alabama Room I envisioned some years back is now going to become reality. We will work on this to get it painted and climate controlled so we can move the model onboard. At the present we are considering painting the room in the original colors of the ship. We have a fair sized collection of Alabama artifacts, and have access to more, along with countless pictures of the interior and exterior of the ship. The room for the ship will be just forward of the current model room, with access to it from that room during the tour season. The access was cut some years back when the idea of an Alabama Room was first conceived.

continued.....

Ray Hilt continued...

The final count on the models is 28, the Maritime Museum has retained three for their current displays. We also have been promised a return of the Ken Jillbert models for 2015, as well as, giving us what will be a very impressive display of Great Lakes ship models. We will promote these both online and through the newspapers come Spring, and judging from the past interest in the models, we should have many visitors on board to see them in 2015.

We have formed a small committee of Terry, Mike and I to oversee the repair of the Alabama case and reinstall the glass. We will notify folks when our work sessions will be, and if you are interested in helping, let me know and I will include you on the call list. I can be reached at (231)722-2538 or email res035d8@comcast.net .

The *Clipper* has a nearly complete set of yearly pamphlets for the operating years. I have donated several including the rare 1941, but we are missing 1942, 1943, 1947, 1948 and 1957. If anyone has these years and would wish to donate them to the ship, they would be most welcome. I would like to be able to put the whole set on display on the ship come spring. If we don't have them all by then, I will put what we have on display.

Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving, and wishing all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Ray Hilt
Museum Curator



CLIPPER AUCTION AND BRUNCH

Muskegon Country Club May 17th, 2015



You may think that it 's too early to even think about the *Clipper* auction coming up May 17, 2015. But we've already started accumulating items for the big day. If you have new items that can be auctioned, please let the committee know. We need your help in soliciting items for the auction. We will soon have tickets for sale. Again, the auction will be held at the Muskegon Country Club starting with brunch at 11:00 am, then about 12:30-1:00 the live auction will get started. The silent auction will continue through brunch and go til the live auction is over.

Please post this date on your calendar, so you do not miss it!

If you would like to help, call me 231-722-2375.

Gene Fethke

Auction Chairperson




Get well wishes go out to Gene Fethke and Jackie Hilt, both recovering from surgeries. JoAn Pietila is still having some reoccurring issues with her stay in the hospital a year ago. But did help organize the Christmas party. "Good Party Girl" that JoAn! I hear that Peggy Iversen is enjoying some reprieve from treatments for a few months. That's very good news.

Everyone else, please stay healthy and enjoy the holidays.



Surprise on Clipper Tours

By Jim Plant



As exciting as the whole tour of the *Clipper* is I have to confess that the highlight of the tour is in a small room on the Sports Deck known as the Soda Bowl. Tour guests are very enthusiastic and bubbly about what they experience there when they return to the *Clipper* store at the end of the tour.

No true soda bowl would ever be complete without a soda jerk. Our resident soda jerk has just the right personality and enthusiasm to bring that area to life. I invite everyone to investigate our super volunteer, Tom Bell, at work greeting the tour guests. Tom's descriptions of the activities in the soda bowl when the ship was sailing across Lake Michigan are so detailed that you feel that you become part of the *Clipper* story. Tom starts out with the fact that this room was originally the casino. When the sheriff put a stop to gaming, the room became a very popular center for casual relaxing. The Bastian Blessing Company of Grand Haven installed a complete stainless steel soda fountain that supplied ice cream treats that are so popular, even today. He explains every piece of equipment and describes its function so accurately that you can almost taste the succulent treats that were prepared. I think he even mentions the color of the girls' eyes that worked behind the counter.

AND when he offers the tour guests a complimentary dish of ice cream that is the frosting on the "cake". Tom has the tour guests believing they are a part of the *Clipper* volunteer corps. Job well done, Tom. Thank you.

Please, consider becoming a part of our *Clipper* family of tour guides. On board training will make you a *Clipper* expert in no time. Call me at 213-744-5101 to get the particulars. If we have more tour guides the time devoted for tour duty will usually not be more than a few hours at a time.

Clipper Book Sales Update

By Marylouise Plant

Dear Hearts and Gentle People,

I'm ecstatic over the response to our *Clipper* book fund-raiser. To date 420 books have been sold. After all expenses have been paid over \$10,000 has been added to MCPI restoration effort; 580 books remain to be sold. Please, add the book to your Christmas wish list or your gift-giving list. \$50.00+ \$6.00 shipping, if necessary. Books will be available at the McGraft Park Pavilion Dec. 18th. Please, patronize the merchants that are helping us market the *Clipper* book.

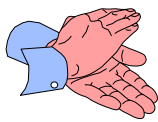
Books are available from me at 231-744-5101 for pick up or shipping. OR at [www. Milwaukeeclipper.com](http://www.Milwaukeeclipper.com) Or use the order form included in this newsletter.

Also *Clipper* books are available at the following locations:

Shoreline Inns & Suites, 750 Terrace Pt. Dr., Muskegon,	231-727-8483
Torresen Marine, Inc. 3003 Lake Shore Dr., Muskegon,	231-759-8596
Maggie's Gourmet Foods & Gifts, 4851 Harvey St., Muskegon,	231-799-9333
Java Shop & Book Nook, 8744 Ferry St., Montague,	231-894-5333
Colby's Hokey Pokey, 107 Colby St., Whitehall,	231-894-6585
Jerviss-Fethke Ins. , 71 W. Webster Ave., Muskegon,	231-722-2375
USS Silversides Submarine Museum, 1346 Bluff St., Muskegon	231-755-1230
The Fishmonger's Wife, 2127 W. Sherman Blvd., Muskegon,	231-755-1600
Lakeshore Museum Center, 439 W. Clay Ave., Muskegon	231-722-0278
My Secret Stash, 122 Cass St., Traverse City,	734-765-7507

An advertisement has been placed in the "Great Lakes Pilot" newspaper available at Meijers and other big retailers in the Midwest. Check that out. I have requested a review of the book in their publication as well. I have also sent out book review requests for two national magazines. I'll keep you posted when those will be published.

Have a wonderful holiday.



Thank you to our sponsors!

If you have any of the items listed below, that you would be willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Remember all items donated are tax deductible, we are a 501©3 organization.

** WANT AD ** ITEMS NEEDED

- *Emergency Electric Generator
- *Welder
- *Electric Sanders
- ***VOLUNTEERS**
- *Painters
- *Electric Hand Grinders
- *General Maintenance
- *Tour Guides
- *Electronic Help
- *Funding for Marine Paints
- *(VOLUNTEERS!



A HAPPY
NEW YEAR




Partners
In Service



Mike Passage
Supervisor

24 Hour Phone (231) 726-5001
Fax (231) 722-4761
hjec@halljones.com

1965 Sanford Street
P.O. Box 785
Muskegon, Michigan 49443



Sidock Group, Inc.
ENGINEERS • ARCHITECTS • CONSULTANTS • PROJECT MANAGERS

DONALD A. SPEZIA, NCARB
SENIOR PROJECT ARCHITECT

379 W. WESTERN AVENUE SUITE 200
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49440

(231) 722-4900 EXT. 205
Fax: (231) 722-4955
E-MAIL: dspezia@sidockgroup.com
www.sidockgroup.com

We Support the Milwaukee Clipper!



Serving Homeowners and Contractors... Party and Fundraiser Needs...

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awnings • Power & Hand Tools • Lawn & Garden • Parts & Supplies • Heating & Cooling • Plumbing & Floor Care • Painting Equipment • Tents • Stairlifts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generators and the like • Audio, Video and more • Pumps & Control Cable Machines • Sewing, Hooping and Quilt Machines • Lawn Tractors, Mowers • Commercial Sinks • Trench and Compaction Pumps • Crane and Hoists • Concrete and All Products • Commercial for all locations
---	---

WEST MICHIGAN'S #1 RENTAL HEADQUARTERS

REDI RENTAL
Businesses for Professionals and Much More!

Headquarters: 231-722-0868
Muskegon: 231-722-0868
Allenton: 231-722-0868
Grand Haven: 231-722-0868
Spring Lake: 231-722-0868



Les Hopkins
Branch Manager

Praxair Distribution, Inc.
2044 Peck Street
Muskegon Heights, MI 49444

Tel: (231) 722-3185
Fax: (231) 728-0126
Cell: (231) 578-4292
les_hopkins@praxair.com
www.praxair.com

231-683-1590

Thank you - Blarney Castle Oil Co. for the drums to provide proper handling of the restoration waste products.

Could your business use some new customers?

Business card size \$120 annually - Quarter Page \$240 - Half Page - \$460 - Full page Ad \$900.

Call 231-755-8066 to reserve your space today. Thank you in advance for your support on the progress of the preservation efforts.

SPECIAL THANKS to some of our local businesses, who help behind the scenes: MICRGRAPHICS, who prints the Newsletter and does the mailings; LAKESIDE EMPORIUM,, who supports our efforts by displaying a canister for donations, and has a supply of newsletters for distribution;

You can always get a copy of the newsletter at The Convention and Visitors Bureau. Not to leave out all the other local businesses who support the Spring Auction. We always have multiples of businesses who donate items for the fundraiser. Thanks to our generous supporters - without them, we really would be "Dead-in-the-Water"!

Thanks to all.

FRIENDS OF THE S.S. MILWAUKEE CLIPPER

Support the restoration and preservation of the S. S. Milwaukee Clipper – A National Historic Landmark!

The S. S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc. is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. All donations are tax deductible! Donations will be anonymous unless otherwise requested.

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$ _____ in support of the efforts of S. S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation, Inc. in memory/honor of _____. Earmark these funds for the following project(s): _____ (Call for suggestions)

Please place my name and address as listed below on the mailing list for Shipshape, the quarterly newsletter I would be willing to volunteer my time to the following Clipper activities:

- Fundraising, Maintenance, Security at the Clipper, Publicity, Museum/Gift Shop, Other, Working on the newsletter, Restoration work, Archiving

I would like to volunteer ! Please contact me at the address below with more information.

Name _____ Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Contact Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Please mail this form to:

S. S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc. PO Box 1370 Muskegon, MI 49443-1370 OR

Send the above information via email to: milwaukeeclipper@gmail.com

The S. S. Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc, a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, was organized in April, 1997 for the sole purpose of restoring and preserving the steamship S. S. Milwaukee Clipper and to create an on-board Great Lakes Maritime Museum to educate and inform the public about our Great Lakes maritime heritage.

Your continuing donations and volunteerism will ensure our success! Thank you for your support!

Use the form below to order your copy of "The S.S. Milwaukee Clipper, An Illustrated History"

ORDER FORM with book images and contact information for ordering 'The S.S. Milwaukee Clipper, An Illustrated History'.



SS Milwaukee Clipper Preservation Inc
P.O Box 1370
Muskegon, MI 49443
(231) 683-1590

Return Service Requested

milwaukeeClipper@gmail.com

Website:

www.MilwaukeeClipper.com

**NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MUSKEGON, MI
PERMIT NO. 308**

SHIPSHAPE is written by members and friends of the Board of Directors. It is edited by Sandy Ferski of Muskegon, MI. You may email the editor at dpfol@earthlink.net

December 2014

Donations to *The Clipper* can be sent to PO Box 1370
Muskegon, MI 49443

'Shipshape' is a quarterly Publication of the SS Milwaukee *Clipper* Preservation, Inc. P.O.Box 1370, Muskegon, MI 49443 (231)683-1590. We are a 501©3 tax-exempt non-profit organization that is funded by tax-deductible gifts from individuals, grants, and businesses. We are governed by a board of community leaders.

BOARD MEMBERS

Pam Babbitt
Gene Fethke
Ray Hilt
Terry Judd
Connie Nesbary
JoAn Pietila
Jim Plant
Capt. Bob Priefer
John Snider
John Stein
Mary Valentine



Located
at 2098 Lakeshore Drive
Muskegon, MI