

THE GREAT LAKES NEWS

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THE ORGAN PEALS NO MORE

Few remember that when the fine steamer Wilpen came out new from the shipyard she had had installed in her a beautiful pipe organ. She has been renamed the A. D. Thompson after the late vice president of the Inland Steel Co. The ship is undergoing extensive repairs at the yards of the Rud Machine Co. Her operators, the Pioneer Steamship Co., have given instructions for the removal of the organ. When Gene Hutchinson, manager, and Tom Cashin, superintendent surveyed the wonderful instrument to make plans for its removal they didn't have the heart to start when they heard the story of how one day a stowaway was discovered aboard the boat. Some think it was Michigan Slim, who since has passed away. He could play and recite "The Face on the Barroom Floor."

The captain says, "go ahead if you can play." He played. He touched the tender cords—"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear That Glorious Song of Old." It was late in the fall and the Wilpen was passing Harbor Beach Mich., but far inland the strains of the organ was heard and people on the farms were frightened. Around the moon was a ring and they thought they saw the angels encircling with their harps of gold. Around Bad Axe on the nearby farms that same time each fall the natives look for the ring around the moon and listen for the peal of the organ that will play no more. "All right," said Gene, "go ahead." "Hey, Mitch, bring the crowbar," says Tom, "start quick, for I'm beginning to see things."

CAPT. JOHN N. CONLON, PRESIDENT

Capt. John N. Conlon of the Steamer Frank J. Peterson was elected president of the International Shipmasters' Association, Lodge No. 7 of Detroit. Capt. R. C. Hoglund is 1st vice president; Capt. Frank Becker, 2nd vice president; Capt. Ray Hayward, secretary, and Charles Ernest, treasurer. The 45th annual ball will be held at the Hotel Statler, Friday evening, Jan. 21. Grand March at 9:00 o'clock.

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J. H. BLAKE HEADS DETROIT ENGINEERS

At the annual election of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, Local No. 3, Detroit, Mich., James H. Blake was elected president; Burt Beauchamp, vice president; Lester Hessong, treasurer; Edw. Naglevort, financial secretary; Lester Prey, corresponding secretary; Charles Menmuir, recording secretary; A. A. Gillingham, door keeper; E. M. Tilley, conductor; E. Barthlein, chaplain; delegates to National Convention, James H. Blake, A. L. Jones, and Lester Hessong; delegate to Michigan State Federation of Labor, A. C. Watkins; Herbert Miller, trustee. The 62nd National Convention of the M. E. B. A. will be held at the Hotel Whitcome, San Francisco, during the week of January 17th.

CAPT. D. T. WHITLOCK, PRESIDENT

Past Grand President Walter L. Girardin of the International Shipmasters' Association installed the 1938 officers of the Cleveland Lodge of the association.

Those taking office were: D. T. Whitlock, president; H. L. Buckley, first vice president; L. W. Smith, second vice president; Robert Thompson, secretary, and Lee G. Hinslea, treasurer.

Following the installation the new president appointed W. G. Campbell, chaplain; W. W. Hill, marshal; John Gallagher, warden, and W. P. Reed, sentinel.

S. M. GRAND LODGE AT PT. HURON

The Grand Lodge of the International Shipmasters' Association will be held at Port Huron the week starting January 24. The Grand Ball given by the Port Huron Lodge will be held Jan. 26th. A large attendance from all over the Great Lakes is expected.

OVER 23,000 BOATS PASS AMHERSTBURG

It has long been known that the lower Detroit River is one of the busiest waterways in the world, but it remained for the official figures of Irving Kelley, Westcott Marine Reporter, to be compiled to find out that the 1937 season was the largest in the history of marine activities in this section of the Great Lakes.

During the 1937 season 23,825 boats passed up and down the river at Amherstburg, 2,000 more vessels than were reported as passing Detroit and 2,178 more boats than the year 1936. In the peak year of 1929—20,304 vessels were reported. The largest number of boats used the river in the earlier part of the season as there was a decided falling off in traffic in October, November and December.

Mr. Kelly also reported that 1937 was also one of the safest in the history of Lower Detroit River navigation as there were few accidents. Another feature is the number of freighters which are engaged in the automobile trade—seven of these make regular scheduled trips from Detroit to Lake Erie ports.

It is interesting to note that the river was blocked with ice earlier this year, than former years, and thus the boats engaged in the local Detroit trade had to tie up sooner than usual.—Amherstburg Echo.

WEDDINGS

The marriage of Miss Frances Cox and Capt. Stanley Anderson, master of the Steamer Maritana took place at the bride's home at St. Clair, Mich., Dec. 27.

Ollie J. Hackett took as his bride Miss Evelyn Schwering, at Cleveland, Dec. 9. Mr. Hackett is assistant engineer of the Steamer Andrew S. Upton.