

Capt. Sven A. Fagerstrom
ISMA Pennant Number 9997
February 26, 1903 – January 11, 1989
Past President of Detroit Lodge No. 7 (1971)
Recipient of the Lewis Ludington Award – March 1994 (Posthumous)

Sven Fagerstrom was born February 26, 1903 in Kramfors, Sweden. He was the youngest child of Ludwig and Anna Fagerstrom. He had three sisters, Siri, Anna, and Ada, and two brothers, Fred and Algot. Sven never really knew his father and was raised by his mother, who would become the driving force of his early life.

At age fourteen, Sven began his sailing career as a deckhand aboard a coastal freighter that sailed near the Swedish shore. On January 14, 1923, he stepped aboard a tramp freighter bound for the United States. After a rough 7-week crossing, the ship arrived at Newport News, Virginia, on March 2, 1923. Sven was injured while the ship was at Newport News, and landed in a hospital unable to speak any English.

Alone in the United States, he decided his only career could be related to sailing and the seas. He made his way to the Great Lakes, and, while working, he went to school to study for his pilot's license.

1928 was a big year in Sven's life. At that time, he became a United States citizen, received his pilot's license and was appointed mate aboard the Ford tug, *Humrick*. Five years later, Sven was a captain of the tug and, in 1934, became captain of another tug, the *Buttercup*. During the following years, Sven was captain of several ships, including the *Henry Ford II* from 1957 to 1961. In 1962, his career was crowned when he was appointed Captain of the Str. *Ernest R. Breech*. Sven retired in July of 1965, known to many on the Great Lakes as "Cap."

Sven married Dora Hansen on December 20, 1930. Dora passed away on April 23, 2002 at the age of 90.



(L-R): Sven & Dora Fagerstrom, Gert & Carl Meyers – on a lodge outing in 1967