

CAPTAIN PETER P. PULCER  
June 29, 1909 - September 21, 1997  
International Ship Masters' Association, Detroit Lodge No. 7  
President, Detroit Lodge No. 7 (1949)  
Master, S/S Edmund Fitzgerald (Retired, 1971)

### **Peter P. Pulcer**

Peter Paul Pulcer, 88, of Harrison Township, died Sunday, Sept. 21, 1997, in Church of Christ Care Center, Clinton Township. He was born June 29, 1909, in Bad Axe.

Mr. Pulcer retired in 1971 as captain of the Edmund Fitzgerald and served as a Great Lakes sailor for 42 years. He was an honorary life member of International Shipmasters Association 7 of Detroit and he enjoyed golfing.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathleen (Elwood) Lyon of Harrison Township; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his wife, Ruth, in 1990.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in First Presbyterian Church, 168 Cass Ave., Mount Clemens, with the Rev. Stanley McAnelly III officiating. Burial will be in Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, Clinton Township.

Arrangements were made by Harold W. Vick Funeral Home, Mount Clemens.

Memorial Contributions may be made to Church of Christ Care Center, Clinton Township or First Presbyterian Church, Mount Clemens.

Macomb Daily, September 22, 1997

CAPTAIN RICHARD H. RILEY  
September 28, 1930 - July 16, 1997  
International Ship Masters' Association, Detroit Lodge No. 7  
and Marine Architect

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Capt. Riley graduated from Northern High School in Detroit and attended Highland Park College before Uncle Sam called. He was drafted into the Army on January 9, 1953. He spent two years in Alaska inspecting tugs, which he loved.

His love of boats and the water developed early in his life. In his teens and early twenties, he was so involved with the Gold Cup races on the Detroit River that he purchased the famous Gold Cup and Harmsworth race boat, "Miss Great Lakes," and renamed her "Miss Birmingham." This 28 foot craft was powered with an Allison aircraft engine rated at 1700 horsepower.

His early education in the field of naval architecture came from his association with John Hacker, the designer of the stepped hydroplane race boat. His boat had been driven by the bandleader Guy Lombardo, whom he came to know.

A newspaper article reported that when Capt. Riley was asked if he would test his new boat on a local lake, he replied, "I'm afraid the residents might object. It would really make quite a racket."

In 1958, Capt. Riley went to work at Defoe Shipbuilding in Bay City, Michigan, and eventually became chief naval architect. In his twenty years with Defoe, he designed and built several oceanographic vessels for Woods Hole and Scripps Oceanographic Institutes. One was the Knorr, which discovered the wreck of the Titanic. At Defoe, he also designed three Australian Navy Destroyers and landing craft. He designed the Island Princess which went from Mackinaw to the island and now is in Bayfield going around the Apostle Islands. He had his own survey business on the side inspecting private boats.

During his time with Defoe he was a member of the Midland Planning Commission. He had a 28 foot cruiser, "Water Wagon," which he loved mainly because it got his family together.

Defoe closed in 1977 and Capt. Riley went to work at U.S. Steel's Great Lakes Fleet in Duluth as a hull engineer. He loved his job and when he retired in 1993, he still worked for two more years.

He was a Registered Technician Engineer with the North Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders. He was a Chartered Engineer of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects, and a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. He also had his Captain's License.

Perhaps his proudest achievement was when he was given the Captain Lewis Ludington Award from the International Ship Masters' Association in March 1995.

Captain Riley is survived by his wife, Sally; three children, Allyson, Robyn and Douglas; two grandchildren, Matthew and Angela; and, two brothers, William and Russell.

Mariners' Church, August 14, 1997