World Champions Trained in Solomons

Editorial Note: The following letter was received from Clyde C. Taylor, who crewed in the 1933 through 1936 International Lifeboat Races. During this time the Standard Oil Company moth-balled much of its fleet in the deep protected Patuxent River. The site is directly in front of the CMM near the Thomas Johnson Bridge. A crew from the ESSO tanker "C. W. Teagle" represented the United States in these races. Albert Zahniser, who still resides in Solomons and is a CMM member, was also a crew member of the 1933 championship crew. Length of the race was two nautical miles. Life boats were 26'1" x 7'4"; crew of 8 plus coxswain; oars were 12 feet in length.

"In 1927 the International Lifeboat Race Committee of Brooklyn, N. Y., the Neptune Association and the 12:30 Club of Bay Bridge, Brooklyn, decided to hold an international lifeboat race in N. Y. Harbor every Labor Day. Their purpose was to promote a better relationship among the nations of the world and their merchant marine.

In 1933 the Standard Oil Company of N. J. entered the first American crew in the race. At that time they had two fleets of tankers tied up in the Patuxent River at Solomons — about 40 ships in all — because business was slack and because some ships needed repairs. The "S/S Ethyl" — one of the ships — was rebuilt inside to accommodate the rowing crew. (CMM has the bell from the "Ethyl" in its collection.) Forty men were picked and were slowly weeded down to eight regular oarsmen, four substitutes and a trainer. On the "Ethyl" we had a chef to cook the food, which was handpicked for athletes in very strict training. Of course we had a galley, comfortable bunks, showers, a sun deck for relaxing. The rules were strict, no wine, women or song.

We trained all summer on the river and in the creeks around Solomons. We came ashore and ran up and down the roads for exercise. Just before Labor Day we went to New York for the race. During the summers of 1933, 1934, and 1935 we went through the same routine.

The picture here is of the 1933 crew. We won the race in 1933 and 1935. In 1934 and 1936 we came in second. Mr. Al Zahniser, a local citizen, was on the 1933 and 1934 crews. Captain Adolv Larson was our trainer and did an excellent job. In 1937, Mr. Richard Carroll was the trainer and he was killed by a bolt of lightning while the crew was off Sandy Point (southwest point of Solomons Island.)

I resigned from Standard Oil in 1936. The races were discontinued, of course, during the War, but were started up again after the War. I understand the Standard Oil crews have won several races for the U. S. A. but have not trained in Solomons since the 1930's."

C. C. Taylor

(Continued on Page 2)
WORLD CHAMPIONS TRAINED IN SOLOMONS

(Continued from Page 1)

1933 championship crew and positions
Ship, "W. C. Teagle"
A. Larson, coxswain and trainer
#1 Clyde Taylor (stroke)
#2 Al. Zahniser
#3 C. A. Rucker
#4 C. J. Borman
#5 G. Gerdes
#6 C. Nystrup
#7 H. Fudski
#8 Nurge

1935 championship crew
Ship, "W. C. Teagle"
A. Larson, coxswain and trainer
#1 Clyde Taylor (stroke)
#2 H. Kastberg
#3 Orin Jewett
#4 A. Selvik
#5 J. Palu
#6 H. Fudski
#7 Wm. Stevens
#8 John Huneke

Nations and ships entered in races

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Excalibur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>New York</td>
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<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Anna Maersk</td>
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<td>General Von Steuben</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Peten</td>
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<td>1935</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
<td>Count de Salvia</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Normandie</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Queen Mary</td>
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Lobby Renovation
Welcome to the steamboat landing at Solomon's Island!

A transformation has taken place in the Museum's lobby. A step through the main entrance transports you back to the heyday of the steamboat era. Underfoot is deck planking, on the right a bench inviting you to sit a spell under a sloping shed roof, and to the left a wharf house housing the completely remodeled ship's store. Tucked into the far right corner is what might be the purser's office.

With ship's lanterns guiding the visitor port or starboard, crates and barrels standing about, dangling block and tackle ready to hoist, the created effect is indeed that of standing amid the bustle of the old wharf. You can almost hear the shouts of the roustabouts guiding bleating sheep and lowing cattle toward the gangplank. Momentarily you expect to hear the shrill steam whistle that precedes the "Cast Off!" followed by the straining of hawsers against the pilings as the engineer throws the throttle into forward.

Such realism is the creation of Bette Bumgarner, Exhibits Specialist, and skilled carpenters of the museum staff.

CMM RECEIVES NEW GRANTS

Two exciting grants have recently been received by CMM. Through the Maryland Committee for the Humanities, funds for our next major exhibit "War on the Patuxent: 1814" will now move ahead. Focusing on the largest fleet engagement ever to take place in Maryland waters, this exhibit will include many of the artifacts recently recovered from the Submerged Cultural Resource Survey of the Patuxent River, a three-year project co-sponsored by CMM and Nautical Archaeological Associates, Inc.

The exhibit will describe how a mosquito fleet of American gun barges tried to stop a superior British fleet from advancing up the river. Eventually, the British might succeed in blockading the U. S. Chesapeake Flotilla upriver where it was scuttled to keep it from enemy hands. The British landed troops near Benedict which marched on and burned Washington.

The search for the forgotten Chesapeake Flotilla by NAA and CMM is also told via a video tape and pictorial presentation. See your CMM Calendar of Events for the preview opening for members only preceded by a talk on the project by Don Shomette, president of NAA.

A $75,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities involves a pictorial and oral history documentation of the folkways of the Patuxent River. Entitled "Patuxent: Portrait of a Tidewater Community" the project will focus on the commercial fisheries of the river. The material gathered will then be used to relate this history and disappearing aspect of our region to the visitor in our exhibit planned for the J. C. Lore oyster house. The uniqueness of this program is that it will tell the story of commercial fisheries as seen through the eyes of the people who actually practice it. The artifacts will be secondary only to the humanities aspects of the story.
CMM CANOE PROJECT SPAWSNS SMALL CRAFT GUILD

Volunteers building the CMM's Colonial punt have formed the Patuxent Small Craft Guild. The stated purpose of this organization is to perpetuate the art of building traditional wooden boats of the type used on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Additionally, the Guild will assist in the restoration and preservation of boats acquired by CMM and in building replicas as may be requested by the Museum.

Presently, the Guild is engaged in building a 15-foot single log canoe which is scheduled for completion this summer. Future projects may include constructing two sailing skiffs which, when completed, will be used to demonstrate the methods of fishing the Chesapeake Bay between 1880-1920.

People interested in participating may meet with the Guild Saturday mornings at the CMM small craft shed or by contacting George Surgent, 586-1893 or Al Lavish, 326-2513.

NEW FACES AT CMM

Two new interns are nearing completion of their work-study programs here at CMM. Karen Cross, of Slippery Rock College, majoring in museum interpretation, has completed an inventory of the museum's paintings and prints collection, review and modification of the Drum Point Lighthouse interpreter guide and a visitor survey. Chris Simmons, interning from St. Mary's College, is majoring in fine arts. Chris has worked on several exhibits projects and designed our new volunteer brochure.

Kathy Caplin, a former intern, has been hired through our educational fund to create seven "Discovery Boxes." These self-learning "hands-on" boxes are very thought provoking while making learning fun. Dr. Allan Oliver, has been hired as developmental officer thanks to our Institute of Museums Services General Operations grant. The fruits of Al's labor have already been realized in new grants recently received (see grants article).

Alan Manual has temporarily replaced Robert Burnett as cabinetmaker. Robert is recovering from foot surgery and should be back on the job shortly. Meanwhile, Alan has been helping with remodeling of the entrance lobby, gift shop, and central corridor.

SPRING CALENDAR AND PROGRAM SCHEDULE

All programs begin at the Museum at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Programs are free to members; $1.00 to non-members unless otherwise noted. For additional information call Dorothy Ordwein 326-4162.

John Olsen Chapter American Shipcarvers Guild — first and third Tuesday, monthly at 7:30 p.m.
Solomons Island Model Boat Club — first and third Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.
Patuxent Small Craft Guild — every Saturday at 10 a.m.

APRIL
11 CMM CANOE CLUB. Hellen Creek, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring lunch. Meet at store intersection Rts. 2/4 and Solters Wharf Road before 9:30 a.m. If you do not have a canoe, be sure to call 326-4162 or 586-0767 well before trip date.
16 FOSSIL CLUB. An organizational meeting to plan policy and program. Leaders will be Norm Riker and Dave Bohaska.
29 OSPREY. Steve Cardano of Charles County Community College will share his interesting research on the life habits of the osprey and its present status.

MAY
8, 9, 10 Seventh Annual Museum Small Craft Conference at CMM.
9 CMM CANOE CLUB. Battle Creek. Call 326-4162 or 586-0767 for details.
14 FISH MIGRATION. Lecture by Jay O'Dell, Natural Resources manager of the Tidewater Fisheries Administration. Lecture includes color movie and discussion of patterns followed by anadromous spawners and recent research problems related to their migration.

JUNE
15 National Museum Day
6 CMM CANOE CLUB. St. Leonard Creek. See May 9 for instructions.
17 STEAMBOATING AROUND THE BAY. A slide lecture by Graham Wood, co-author of Steamboats Out of Baltimore. Recollections of time when steamboats were Calvert's link with the world.
26 WAR ON THE PATUXENT: 1814. Exhibit preview preceded by lecture by Don Shomette on "Search for the Patuxent Flotilla."

JULY
8, 15, 22, 29 WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS. Varied program offers opportunity to —
— learn skills such as rope work and knots, wood-carving, eel pot- and net-making, canoeing;
— develop interests in fossils, estuarine studies, Southern Maryland folk history. Advanced registration (June 3) assures you of a place in the program.
8-16 LADY KATIE CRUISES. Two- and three-day cruises costing $50 a day are available. Reservations MUST be made by June 3. Pick up brochure at CMM or send stamped, self-addressed business envelope for your copy.

AUGUST
14 MOVIE NIGHT.
TENNISON BEGINS THIRD SEASON

The Museum's historic 1899 oyster buy boat will begin its third season as tour boat beginning May 31 through October 25. Charters are also available beginning May 1 at $60.00 per hour. Catered lunches and dinners may be arranged. Charter bookings are already going fast so confirm your reservations early by calling the Museum at 326-3719.

1981 SCHEDULE AND RATES

The Tennison will be sailing the Patuxent River Wednesday through Sunday from Calvert Marine Museum dock.

DEPARTURES
May 31 through October 25
afternoon and evening cruises

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FARE

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<tr>
<td>1 hr. cruise</td>
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<tr>
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CMM offers a maximum fare of $10.00 per family for the one hour cruise and $20.00 per family for the three hour cruise. All children under five years are admitted free.

CMM members are entitled to a 10% discount on regular fares.

CMM Hosts Small Craft Conference

The Seventh Annual Museums Small Craft Conference will be sponsored by SMM from May 8 through 10. Museum staff and interested persons from up and down the East Coast are expected to attend. Archaeological reconnaissance of small craft, exhibition and interpretation, and Southern Maryland small craft will be highlighted. Field trips and fun are also planned. For further information contact the Museum.

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES INCLUDE:

1. Subscription to the quarterly “Bugeye Times” newsletter.
2. Quarterly calendar of events.
3. Free admission to Museum programs (films, lectures, slide-shows).
4. Invitations to previews and receptions for new exhibits.
5. Reduced rates for trips, tours, cruises and classes.

NOTE: One month prior to the expiration of your membership a RENEWAL notice will be sent to you.

PLEASE ENTER MY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR:

( ) $ 2.50 Student (under 18 yrs. old)
( ) $ 5.00 Individual
( ) $ 7.50 Family
( ) $ 50.00 Supporting
( ) $100.00 Sustaining
( ) $500.00 & over – Life Membership

Name
Address
City State Zip

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION

The BUGEYE TIMES is the quarterly newsletter for members of the Calvert Marine Museum. Named for the traditional sailing craft of the Bay, the bugeye was built in all its glory at Solomons, the “Bugeye Capital of the World.” Membership dues are used to fund special Museum projects, programs, and printing of this newsletter. Address comments and membership applications to: Calvert Marine Museum, P.O. Box 97, Solomons, Maryland 20688. (301) 326-3719.