

BURTON



## THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on January 30, 1953 at 7:00 P.M., this being the last Friday of the month. Unless otherwise notified you may assume that it will be at the Detroit Historical Museum.

## DUES FOR 1953

Dues for the coming year are payable on January 1. It speaks well for the type of members we have that seven paid theirs on the second of December, or before.

## THE GUILD TELESCOPE

Published by the Great Lakes Model Shipbuilders' Guild, Belle Isle, Detroit 7, Michigan. J. E. Johnston, Editor. Because of the wide distribution of our membership, geographically speaking, this publication was conceived as a means of keeping every member informed of the organization's activities and progress. A number of libraries and museums have asked to be put on our mailing list, which is very flattering, considering the modest size of our sheet. To several other institutions we have, from time to time, sent copies, hoping that in so doing we might contact persons interested in the work the Guild is doing. We can only hope those copies are placed where they may be seen by model builders.

## MODELS OF LAKES VESSELS

The founders of the Guild believed that they were leading model builders into a new field and away from the greatly over done designs available in the past.

Like pioneering in any field, the way is not a bed of roses, but the rewards are great when measured in terms of original achievement and the satisfaction that goes with it. In the by-ways of research, one comes upon many bits and pieces, which, when assembled, give the worker some thrilling moments as definite plans take shape on the drawing board.

## ANOTHER GUILD TV SHOW

On Paul Williams' Grab Bag Show, WJTV, December 20. Subject "NEW SHIPS FROM OLD" a demonstration of Captain Johnston's LINCETER for taking off the lines of one model for use in the construction of another. By the use of this machine, it will be possible to add many sets of plans to the growing collection being built up by the Museum of Great Lakes History, and available to guild members without charge.

## JUST WHAT IS THE MUSEUM OF GREAT LAKES HISTORY

Since it is the headquarters of the Guild, and must be mentioned frequently in the TELESCOPE, it may be well to make clear to all of our readers just what the Museum of Great Lakes history really is. Briefly, it is the Maritime Branch of the Detroit Historical Museum. It is housed in the three-mast schooner "J.T.Wing", last commercial sailing vessel of the Great Lakes, a gift to the City of Detroit by Grant M. Piggott and Joseph Braun, two prominent business men. The City specified, when accepting the ship, that it must be made self-supporting, through an admission charge.

It is the function of this museum to locate, acquire (when possible), and preserve materials which will tell the story of the development of commercial shipping on the worlds greatest fresh water marine. Full-size craft, models, maps, charts, navigation instruments, old scrap books, account books from old ships, light house equipment, deck fittings, oil paintings, prints, prints and lithographs are found among the exhibits, besides many other objects.

The reference department contains a file on more than 6,000 vessels and is rapidly being enlarged. This file includes many fine photographs of both sailing and steam vessels. The museum is located on the edge of the Detroit River, on Belle Isle, where, from its decks the modern steamers of the Lakes may be seen at close range as they pass up and down that busy waterway. It is the repository of the property of the Guild which is an auxiliary to the institution.

## THE 1952 CONVENTION

In spite of slush and snow under foot the 1952 Convention was a complete success, and one of the liveliest in our his-

tory. About half of the entire membership attended and when it is remembered that five of our membership live outside of Michigan, and about as many live at considerable distances from Detroit, and another five or so work evenings, that was a very good turn out. Illness prevented two from coming.

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M., in the Briefing Room, at the Detroit Historical Museum, by President Robert L. Ruhl, who made the following announcements: "The Wayne University TV show, featuring models from my own collection was very good. A letter of thanks for the use of the models has been received."

"The Damond Hardware Company's hobby show awarded the same models Second Prize in the Senior Division, plus a ten dollar merchandise order, and the Kovach twins took First Prize in the Junior Division, plus a fifteen dollar order. They entered their "Diligence" which was a winner in the Guild show last September.

The President read a letter from Mrs. Johnston, thanking the Guild for the tickets presented to her, and the Captain on the occasion of the Indian-Pilgrim Dinner which was a Detroit Historical Society event.

It was also suggested that the Guild consider taking some active part in sponsoring model building by patients in the Veterans' Hospital.

The results of the 1952 election of officers was announced. All officers were re-elected:

President - Robert L. Ruhl

Vice president - Emmet Priestley

Sec-Tres. - Robert H. Davison

Chairman, Advisory Board - Capt. J.E. Johnston

Capt. Johnston, reporting for the Vice president's Committee on Promotion, mentioned the TV show which he staged for the Guild on Paul Williams program on WWJ-TV.

Under the heading of unfinished business, Pres. Ruhl reported no progress on the matter of incorporating. Capt. Johnston reported no further progress in obtaining information suitable for building of models of ships that participated in the Battle of Lake Erie.

Upon a motion by Mr. Philpot, seconded by Mr. Fairbanks, the officers for 1952 were given a vote of thanks for their efforts during the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30, after which Captain Johnston made a brief talk on the Brittain half models which were displayed here for the first time, and followed with a brief demonstration of his "LINOMETER", designed for taking off the lines of models and half models.

Time was allowed for making a tour of the Museum before closing time.

#### A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR

During the Convention, Mr. Kenneth L. Fairbanks brought up a good question on the subject of naming models: "Is it permissible to give a model the name of a known ship if it is not exact in every detail?" We believe the following is true in that connection: If the builder had done his best to obtain accurate information on a definite ship, and has, to the best of his ability, followed his findings, then that is his "Santa Maria", or what ever it may be. However, if he builds a model of a vessel of the "Santa Maria" type only, and does not adhere to details known to be peculiar to the "Santa Maria", and to her only, then he should carefully avoid using the name of any known vessel of that type. President Ruhl's use of the name "Sovereign" for his little clipper ship, is perfectly legitimate. It suggests "Sovereign of the Seas", but does not claim to be that ship. His "Clairmont" is suggestive of Fulton's "Clermont". It is a "type". Often there is too much controversy over the rig of a given ship. Owners and often masters rig a ship to suit themselves. The "Constitution's" raised poop deck was added many years after she was built.

#### THE JOHN G. MUNSON

Space here does not permit a full description of the model of this new self-unloader, but through the good offices of Mr. Irvin L. Clymer, President of Michigan

Limestone & Chemical Co., members of the Guild will be permitted to view this very clean cut job, now on display in the reception room at the company's offices 2650 Union Guardian Bldg. Show the receptionist your membership card, to explain your call.

Mr. Clymer has very kindly offered us the use of a sufficient number of sheets from the plans of the "Munson", to enable us to make a working model of her. Here is a challenge to the model builder who can turn out minute working parts for the conveyor system. The plans have been ordered from Manitowoc, and should be here before our next meeting.

#### ABOUT OUR PLANS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

From Washington D. C. Comes word that within a few days our plans of Lakes vessels will be in the mail, 118 sheets of them. Many of these do not cover every detail, but the way we are getting together information on our own, they will all serve in one way or another. Mr. Frank A. Taylor, of the Smithsonian Institution is taking care of the details in a way that is beyond the call of duty, and has earned our deepest gratitude.

#### MODEL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN

During the month of December a beautiful model of the Georgian Bay Line's "North American" will go on display in the Detroit Historical Museum. This has been made possible through Mr. N. L. Chinnock, General Passenger Agent of the Line. This will make three models, from the Museum of Great Lakes History collection, that are on display at the Main Museum.

## LAST OF THE LOCAL STEAMERS

The steamer Put-In-Bay is the last of the local passenger steamers built for and sailed in the trade to the Erie Isles. She was not operated last year, and at this writing, we do not know for sure if she will run in 1953. Here, again, is a project for a special committee. Also, there are some other similar tasks in connection with the D & C Fleet, and during the winter months there will be some tied up freighters to survey. We can apply to the owners for permission. A lot can be learned about detail on such a project.



## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GUILD

Through Mrs. Rita Meharg of Detroit Harbor Terminal, and incidently a model builder, has presented an idea that the Guild will do well to consider. This very interesting caller at the "Editorial Office" of the TELESCOPE told of how she has been distributing American magazines to the foreign ships visiting Detroit and how farreaching is this friendly gesture. Bundles delivered to the Master, go on to the officers, and through them to the crew members. Then they are given to the families of the officers and crew members in their home lands, and after they are read by these they are distributed to neighbors, and to neighbors' neighbors. A better way of telling Europe about our way of life can hardly be imagined, and it costs nothing but our used magazines. Let's help this valiant little ambassador of good will. The ships will return about the last of April. Save your magazines after you have read them. Get them to the "J.T. Wing". We will get them to Mrs. Meharg. Will you?

DEC 27 1952

TELESCOPE  
Belle Isle  
Detroit 7,  
Michigan.



Burton Historical Collection  
Detroit Public Library  
Detroit 2, Michigan.

