



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Bob Sadler

(313) 833-7937 or

(313) 819-5761 (cell)

bobsadler@detroithistorical.org

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM TO REMEMBER MARINERS LOST ON THE INLAND SEAS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH

DETROIT -- The **Detroit Historical Society's Dossin Maritime Group** hosts its annual remembrance for sailors lost on our inland seas **Tuesday, November 10 at 6 p.m.** at the **Dossin Great Lakes Museum.**

This moving event takes place on the 34th anniversary of the sinking of the Great Lakes ore freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald*. This year's event commemorates the 100th anniversary of the loss of the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2*. This railroad car ferry set sail from Conneaut, Ohio on December 7, 1909. After encountering a fierce winter storm, the ship disappeared on Lake Erie, claiming 32 lives. The wreckage of this 350 foot ship loaded with 30 railroad cars full of coal has never been found. Since numerous search efforts have been attempted to find the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2* over the past 100 years -- and failed -- it is considered the "Holy Grail" of shipwrecks in the Great Lakes.

The cost of admission is \$10 for Detroit Historical Society and Dossin Maritime Group members and \$15 for guests. The cost of VIP tickets, which includes priority seating in the Museum's pilothouse and a special VIP reception, is \$25. For more information or reservations, call **(313) 833-1801** or visit our website at www.detroithistorical.org. In addition, the event will be made available as a live webcast at www.detroithistorical.org for those unable to attend.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- **6 p.m.** – A lantern ceremony at the *Fitzgerald* anchor remembers both the crew of the *Fitz* and the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2*.

Lost Mariners Remembrance – Page 2

- **6:15 p.m.** – **Lee Murdock**, the renowned Great Lakes balladeer, performs in DeRoy Hall as guests enter the museum.
- **7:00 p.m.** – Assembly of the Lost Mariners honor guard, including members of the United States Coast Guard, Canadian Coast Guard, International Shipmasters Lodge #7 and a descendant of the Captain and First Mate lost on the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2*. The honor guard will be escorted by bagpipers to the river's edge with the Lost Mariners memorial wreath.
- **7:02 p.m.** – Reading of the lost crew roster of the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2* by Kathy McGraw of the Dossin Maritime Group with a bell toll for each name.
- **7:03 p.m.** – Out on the Detroit River, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter escorts and lights up a flotilla of U.S. and Canadian vessels as they approach the Museum to receive the wreath. The ships include a 41-foot U.S. Coast Guard utility boat with uniformed crew at attention on deck, the Canadian Coast Guard cutter *Cape Dundas*, an Ontario Provincial Police Marine Division service boat and the mail boat *J.W. Westcott*.
- **7:06 p.m.** – The **Reverend Gregory McComas**, assistant rector of Mariners' Church, offers a prayer for the lost mariners.
- **7:10 p.m.** – The wreath honoring those lost on the Great Lakes is laid out in the river with a salute of all water cannons by the Detroit Fire Department's *Curtis Randolph*. Overhead, a helicopter from the Selfridge Air National Guard base lights the scene. In addition, there will be a playing of "Taps" on the river with a Canadian echo of "Last Post."
- **7:12 p.m.** – Presentation by guest speaker, **Christopher Gillcrist, Executive Director of the Great Lakes Historical Society** in Vermilion, Ohio on the loss of the *Marquette & Bessemer No. 2*.
- **7:45 p.m.** – The event concludes with a memorial prayer and benediction by Rev. McComas, followed by Lee Murdock's rendition of "**Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald**" and a video collage of the ship's history.

- more -

Lost Mariners Remembrance – Page 3

The Dossin Great Lakes Museum, located at 100 Strand Drive on Belle Isle, is open Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free at the Museum for the duration of 2009, however, donations are welcome. Permanent exhibits include the *Miss Pepsi* vintage championship hydroplane, a bow anchor from the *S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald*, the pilothouse from the Great Lakes freighter *S.S. William Clay Ford*, and the one of the largest known collections of scale model ships in the world. For more information, call **(313) 833-5538** or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

###