



February 2022

# *on the Move*

*Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum*

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## **Eight Bells for Former CMM Curator and Operations Committee Member Don Glasell**



We are sorry to report the passing of long-time Chicago Maritime Museum volunteer, curator, and operations committee member Don Glasell at age 94. Don died peacefully in his sleep on January 10.

Don started with the Chicago Maritime Society in 2008 when the facility was located at Racine and Jackson. In exchange for space to run his Captain's Emporium sailing trophy business, Don managed the museum's office, back when visitors came by appointment only. Don was instrumental in the museum's 2016 move to the Bridgeport Art Center, where he managed the books and eventually became full-time curator.

"Our thoughts are with Don's wife Marge, his family and friends today," says CMM vice chairman Jerry Thomas. "Don's maritime

expertise was a huge asset to the museum and to the public. He enjoyed sharing the history of Chicago's waterways and was well-versed in CMM's collections. Don was also a key player on the Operations Committee where his expertise on our exhibits and artifacts was invaluable."



Long before joining the Chicago Maritime Museum, Don was already a fixture in the Chicago sailing community. As an "Island Goat Master Mariner," he sailed in 56 Chicago Mackinac races over the years. He also served on numerous sailboat racing protest committees and was a race officer as well. He also provided sailing trophies to many Chicago yacht clubs and sailing schools. In addition, Don helped make sailing more accessible to inner-city kids and the disabled as a sailing instructor with the Chicago Yacht Club and as a board member of Judd Goldman Adaptive Sailing Foundation.

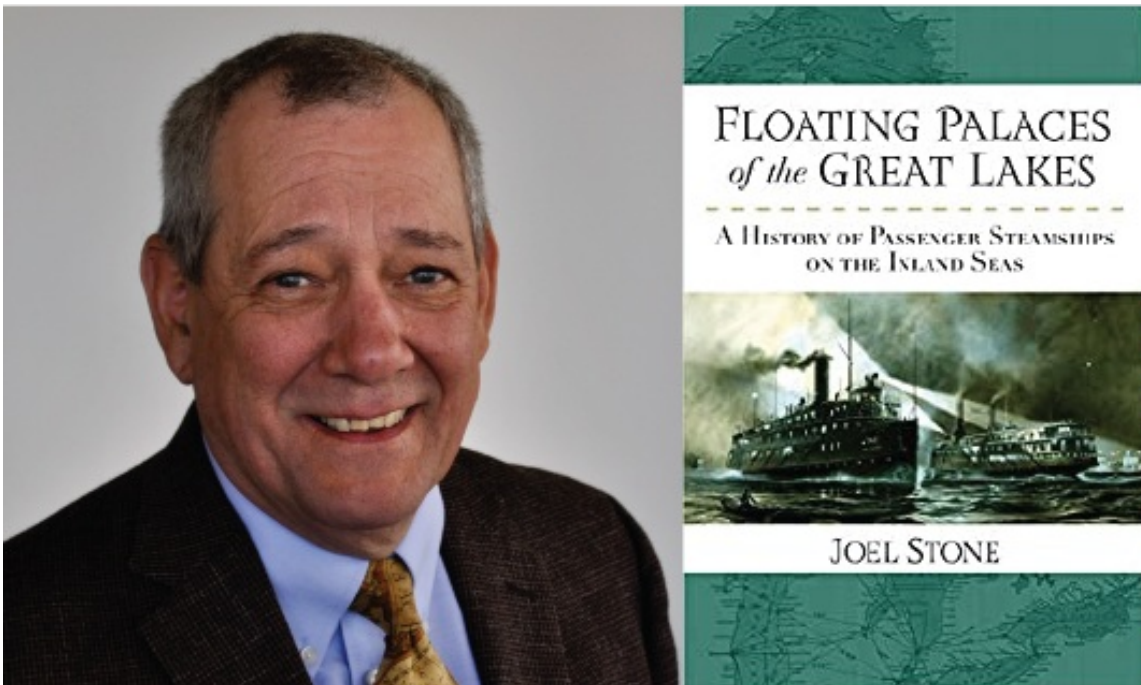
After military service in Korea, Don was a local television producer before heading up the AV department for Montgomery Ward.

Services are pending.

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## Join us For Virtual Third Friday

*"Floating Palaces of the Great Lakes" by Joel Stone*



Through much of the nineteenth century, steam-powered ships provided one of the most reliable and comfortable transportation options in North America. The aesthetic, structural and commercial peak of the steamboat era occurred on the Great Lakes, where palatial ships created memories and livelihoods for millions. By the mid-twentieth century, the industry was in steep decline, and

today our rich and entertaining steamboat heritage has been largely forgotten.

Author Joel Stone brings this era to life again at CMM's virtual Third Friday on February 18 starting at 7:00 p.m.

Stone is curator emeritus for the Detroit Historical Society, which oversees the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. His writing focuses on North American frontier and transportation cultures and includes *Floating Palaces of the Great Lakes* (University of Michigan Press, 2015) and *Interpreting Maritime History at Museums and Historic Sites* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2017). He is the immediate past president of the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, and currently edits that organization's monthly newsletter.

[Register in advance for the meeting here](#)

Non-CMM members: After registering, we request that you donate \$5 to support the museum and events such as this. Better yet, join us! Your membership supports these efforts as we stay connected with our lively Third Friday presentations and our monthly newsletter, **On the Move**.

[Click here to donate or join](#)

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## Curator's Corner

By Dylan Hoffman

### Celebrating Venetian Night





Venetian Night was established in 1959 as the *Chicago Yachting Association* worked with the mayor's office and the yacht clubs to organize a community parade of boats. The initial event was held in Diversey Harbor and has evolved significantly over the years.

In 1968, an international fleet was gathered from countries renowned for their maritime history and prowess through the Consuls-General in Chicago. The Consul-General of Japan presented a Yakatabune leisure boat to the fleet which included a Bolivian reed boat, a dory from Nova Scotia and "bundalsfaering" from Norway. The Italian Ambassador to the United States Egidio Ortona, a great scholar, historian, and respected diplomat, contributed a gondola.

In 1969, the historic lunar mission of Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Mike Collins influenced many entries with creative visions of Martians and alien creatures. The astronauts touched down briefly in Chicago for a ticker tape tribute and this photograph of an immense City of Chicago barge honors them.

The Chicago Maritime Museum holds over 400 photographs of Venetian Night in its collection. The photographs document the event from its inception in 1959 to 1976 and were displayed at the Daley Center in July of 1997 as part of a Chicago Maritime Society exhibition titled – *Early Years of Venetian Night*.

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## **“History of Ships” WPA Mural**

**By Dylan Hoffman**



In October of 2020, the Chicago Maritime Museum acquired a Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural titled *History of Ships*.

The WPA Federal Art Project commissioned *History of Ships* for the Victor F. Lawson School, formerly located in the Lawndale neighborhood. The unsigned mural is attributed to Gustaf Oscar Dalstrom who depicts the history of shipbuilding, from tall-masted sailing ships to an early sidewheel steamboat and a large passenger river boat. The mural was recovered and professionally restored after the Lawson School was demolished in the early 1980s.

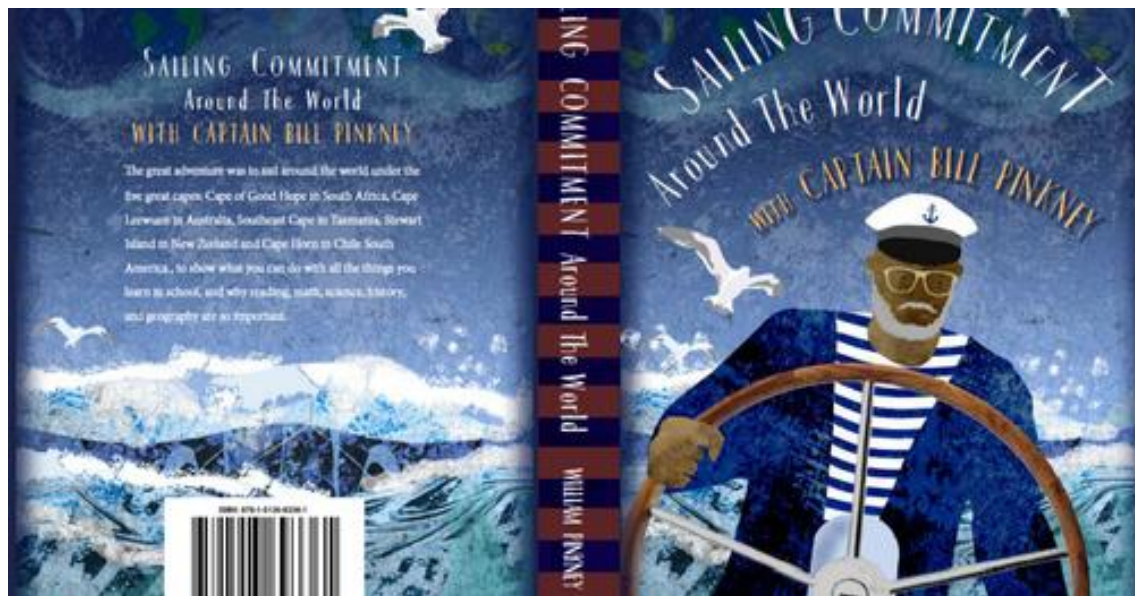
In addition to its physical properties, unique aesthetics, and artistic interpretation, provenance research has revealed the mural's previous owners, movements, and altered physical state - all of which add expressiveness to its story.

Scan or click the QR code below to view a story map detailing the life of *History of Ships*.



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## Captain Bill Pinkney Pens a Children's Book



***Around the World with Captain Bill Pinkney***  
will be out in the spring of 2022.

[Read More  
Here](#)

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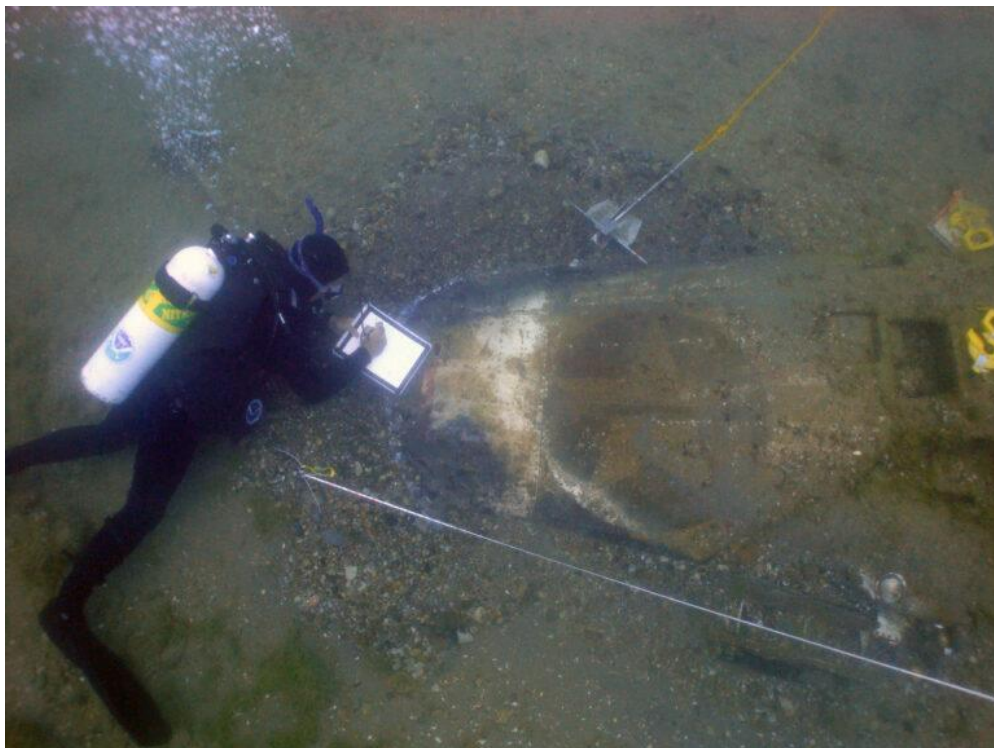
## Soo Locks Upgrade Gets Full Funding



Continued funding for work on a new lock at the Soo, similar in size to the aging Poe Lock, has now been set in motion.

[Read More Here](#)

## Excavating Great Lakes Wrecks



One big project is recovering the WWII plane's wreckage.



Read More  
Here

## Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page](#).

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at [maorourke58@gmail.com](mailto:maorourke58@gmail.com).

Ready to join or renew your membership?  
Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#).  
If you need further membership support please email us at [cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org](mailto:cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org)

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*We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.*

