



## Zenith bulletin. July 14, 1944

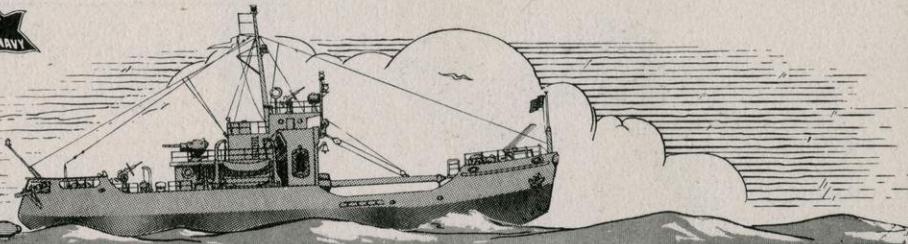
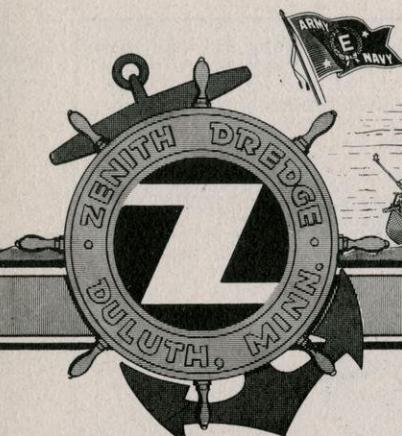
Duluth, MN: Zenith Dredge Co., July 14, 1944

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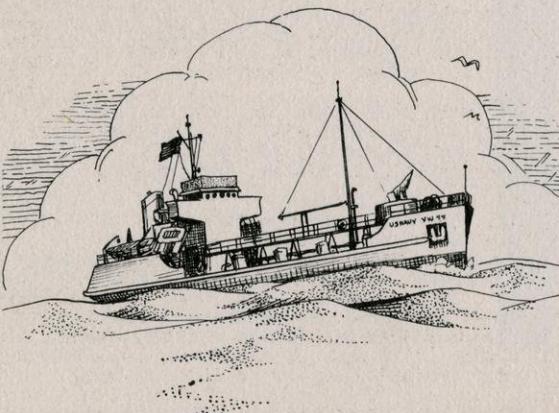
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## ZENITH BULLETIN

JULY 14, 1944

### Skippers of YW Tankers Praise Our Work!



SOME time ago, Lt. Commander Joseph A. Hartman, Supervisor of Shipbuilding for the U. S. Navy in Duluth, wrote to the various skippers of the YW tankers which left our yard for distant ports.

In his letter Hartman requested these men to write and give their experiences with the vessels after they left Duluth. Below are excerpts from some of the letters which were received:

"... Well, we have had a lot of fun and you can tell them that this little ship is earning her way, and has done a pile of the work she was intended for and most of it under very difficult conditions, too.

I have a great deal of confidence in Zenith's work after having seen many of the other yards' jobs, and ours are by far the best all around. I have a lot more equipment than I started out with and am really proud of this little ship.

I have logged a good many thousand miles so far and she has done very well with the exception of engine trouble. We've got towed 900 miles and were adrift long enough to run out of grub. However, that is over with like all nightmares.

I have watered several of the YO's underway at sea and in fairly rough seas too and without any trouble. I could write for days of our experiences since leaving Duluth, but it is taboo, so will tell you all about it someday and you boys can be proud of your product up there. The work is far ahead of that of the other yards, and also equipment. You have them all beat as to building these things . . ."

Another skipper writes suggesting a number of changes which could be made in the plans of outfitting the boat and goes on to say:

"... Now that I've found so much fault, I suppose you think my opinion of your ships is anything but complimentary.

Well, you're wrong. I've seen a number of YO's, YOG's, and YW's which were built elsewhere and they do not measure up to Duluth specifications. That's an unbiased opinion.

I can't question their sturdiness or durability but I can tell you that this ship is very, very sea-worthy. You may have heard but while in a convoy formation in a severe storm and at night, we were led on to a reef going into Panama by a new Liberty ship.

The breakers hitting and thumping the ship on the coral were 50 to 75 feet high. We escaped with little damage. The rudder was slightly injured and the bottom has some dents but the ship and crew were saved unassisted. The last I saw of the scene, the Liberty ship and a large sea-going tug were fast breaking up on the reef. There was some loss of life."

A third skipper also suggested a number of changes which would make the YW class of ships more efficient and concludes by saying:

"... Mr. Hartman, don't think I am finding fault with this vessel, as a matter of fact I have compared it with several that have been built on the Coast and I find we are much better equipped and constructed. I still think that Zenith builds good ships. My only regret is that I will not be there to get another one.

These suggestions are made after sailing the ship 12,000 miles. Of course, the Bureau states that they are harbor craft, but actually we are following up the fleet and are working in the newly-established bases and they are "sea-going."

Believe me, those Zenith ships are doing a wonderful job . . ."

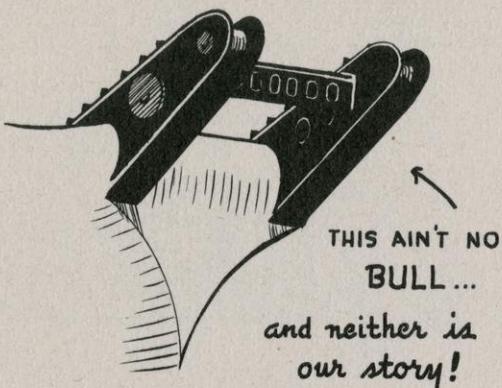
### PICNIC PLANS TO BE DISCUSSED TONIGHT



Plans for the annual yard picnic will be discussed TONIGHT at the Union meeting to be held at the VFW Hall at 2010½ West Superior Street.

Anyone with suggestions on where to hold the picnic is urged to attend and air his views.

No definite date has been set for the picnic as yet, but if it is held, it will be in the first part of August.



The illustration above shows the 2 net-lifting horns which go on each Net Tender. Other shipyards hang them on the vessels one at a time.

But this week Henry Maki's crew did the impossible (at least the boys from Marine Iron said it couldn't be done). Henry's crew, assisted by riggers and stagers, hung the TWO horns in one unit on Hull #27 last Tuesday morning. The job required about 5 hours.

The unit, after being hung, is welded into the shell of the Net Tender. Maybe we can expect Bradshaw and Swan Nelson of the Marine Yard over to find out how the trick is accomplished.

We were pleased to note the enthusiastic response which our Special Issue of last week received in the yard. For those who wish an extra copy, there are still a few remaining at the Clock House.

## Our Merchant Marine

### The Ice Trade

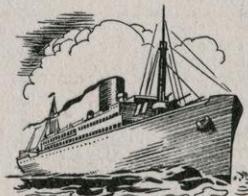


Frederick Tudor, 20-year-old mercantile genius, in 1805 sent a cargo of ice from Saugus, Mass., to Havana. By time of arrival his cargo had turned to water!

Undaunted, Tudor blanketed his ice with white pine sawdust, thereafter sold ice regularly to British West Indian planters, and to New Orleans, Charleston and Savannah.

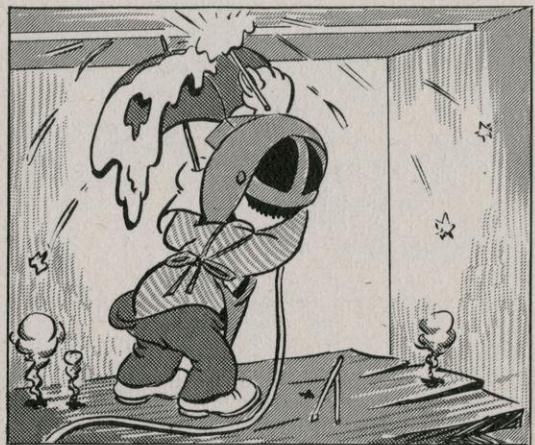
By 1833, Tudor was selling New England ice to British merchants in Calcutta. Ice revived, dwindling India-American trade.

The Ice Trade flourished for seventy years. Up to the invention of ice machinery in 1875, New England ice was sold in every sizeable tropical and subtropical city.



American steamship companies have replaced the old ice trade with fleets of modern refrigerated ships now carrying perishable goods to all our fighting fronts.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The old saying "It has more truth than poetry" probably applies to this poem submitted by one of our welders. Even if it never wins the Pulitzer prize for being the best poem of the year, we think you will find it amusing just the same.)



A Government man came to our town and started up his welding school and then commenced to look around for any sucker -- or any fool..

To learn this trade, oh, what an art... This waving sparklers, this reducing rod. And this is where I got my start and probably my finish, too, by god.

OH, what a joy, OH what a snap Just to watch those sparklers spark A guy who pays me dough for this is a sap A welder! Hot dog, ain't this a lark.

First I started as a welding tacker Just a little gob here & a little there A snap, I'll say... I was almost a slacker. But it wasn't long it got into my hair.

These guys that weld that delicate stuff was getting bigger and better dough. So I began to squawk and huff for more folding stuff or I would blow.

Egad, I got it just like that a raise but with this raise I also got My mind put right into a daze My back and neck into a knot.

Whoever heard of hanging by your toes and welding towards your feet While fighting fire in your clothes and choking from the heat.

And make it pretty too, by heck That's what you're getting paid for OH I am not the same, I'm just a wreck I'll never be myself any more.

I am getting blinder day by day my lungs are filled with smoke If that government man comes my way At him I'll take a hefty poke.

Flash blind and feeble here I sit just pouring out my sorrow So now that I've writ my little bit I'll go down and weld some more tomorrow.

# -BY THE WAYS...

-BY ARNOLD FOCHS-

Joe LaBelle, the warehouse department's confirmed bachelor, took the final step and surprised everyone by getting married recently. No doubt he will be interested in selling his guns and fishing tackle....his sporting days are now over....

One of the office girls was mentioning the fact that she would like to learn how to play golf only she figured the game was too hard to learn. One of the other girls told her there was nothing to it....

"Just smack the pill and start walking".

"Hm," says the other, "that's just like some of the auto dates I used to have."

When John Kuikka, crane helper in the Fab Shop, reported that he had to go to the dentist to get a tooth pulled, Len Tyacke and Russ Trentlage tried to sell him on an extraction job by tying the offending molar to the shop crane. They even offered to do it for him wholesale, \$1, but it wasn't any deal....

OBSERVED on East 5th Street recently: Robert E. Lee pedalling a bike down the road and trying to outdistance the dogs that were chasing him.

THE OLD SEW & SEW: Lloyd Larsen of the Maintenance Department was noticed taking a needle and thread out of his lunch bucket the other day to sew a button on his shirt. He would have finished the job, too, only his wife forgot to put in a thimble. Lloyd says he is definitely the boss around the house....

Last week when the Powerful took on so much water after a hole had been knocked into it, Iver Johnson scurried around the ALICE VIVIAN looking for a small bilge pump..... that's like trying to empty out Lake Superior with a pail.

Our nomination for the brightest, and truest, saying of the week:  
"He's a good man but he's clock-eyed".

Those Goethel boys, former yard employees now in the US Navy, held a re-union in California a few weeks ago and sent us this picture to show that the life they lead agrees with them. Arno (shown at right) tells the story about the guy who went down to Fort Snelling for his physical exam and was asked by the inspection officer if he wanted a commission.

"Oh, no" said the draftee, "I'm such a poor shot I'd rather work on a straight salary."

FLASH (OP) St. Amour goes on the Wagon ....local liquor dealers confer with City Council to protest against this drastic action...spokesmen for the liquor dealers report that they face ruin unless St. Amour begins indulging again....so far St. Amour has refused to comment, which in itself is a novelty....

MOVE OVER, BLOSS....Louie Sundland of the Plumbing Shop caught 160# of lake trout (16 fish) last week up at Beaver Bay..that's real trolling....

Now that Albert Wright of the Machine Shop is a gay bachelor again, he's having his house refurnished and new floors put in. What's the reason, Albert? Expecting company?

Lewis Michaelis is doing a Louie Laznick on us now. Coming back from his vacation, Lewis reports that the hail stones which fell around Albert Lea were so big that they had to get out a snow-plow to remove them from the highways....

At the circus last Monday night extreme fire precautions were taken and firemen were all over the place prohibiting smoking of any kind during the performance.

However, our spy reports that at least ONE man was able to smoke undetected by hiding his cigarette in his hat.....guess who...none other than our own Louis Nichols!

We see a lot of unusual things around the place but the oddest of the lot was the lawn mower we noticed in the Clock House this week...and there isn't a blade of grass in the entire shipyard!

"How come the foreman fired you?"

"Well, you know the foreman is the guy who stands around and watches the others work."

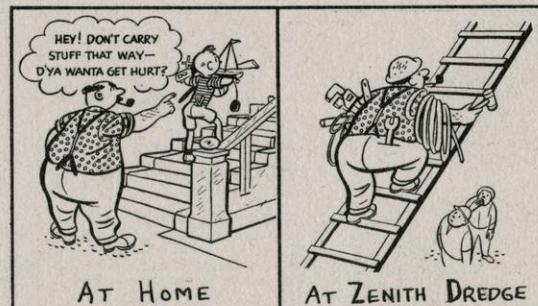
"Yeah, anyone knows that. But why did he fire you?"

"He got jealous of me. A lot of the fellows thought that I was the foreman."

## —Notice—

Because we will be absent from the yard for two weeks, we are leaving the publication of the BULLETIN in the capable hands of Rod Chalmers, plant protection director.

Rod is an old hand in the newspaper game having been publisher of the Lakeside TIMES for some years. In the meantime, don't forget that every paper needs contributors. Drop your offerings in the special box placed outside the Clock House and help us along.



## NAVAL TRADITIONS

Here's a little poem which should be of great aid in understanding what's what in Naval terminology:

"You make with a swab and not with a mop,  
It's topside--not upstairs, to get to the top  
You stand on the deck, even if it's green grass  
and it's chow, not food, that you get on a pass.

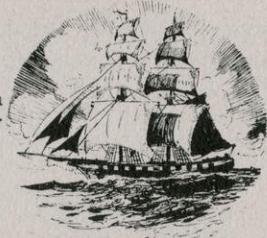
Boat is to ship as hill is to mountain,  
And you drink from a scuttlebutt, not from a  
fountain,

The gentleman's lounge is known as the head  
You sleep in a sack and not in a bed.

You stow the gear, not put things away--  
You say, "Squared away" instead of Okay.  
It's port and it's starboard not left & right  
and a rope is a line, and a loop is a bight.

### IN THE BRIG

Because Admiral Nelson assigned a small brig to carry captives taken in one of his naval engagements, and because his seamen ever afterwards associated that vessel with prisoners, the name "brig" became sailor's universal slang for JAIL.



### SON of a GUN

This term dates back to when men of certain rank, including gunners, were allowed to take their wives along to sea. If a boy was born on the voyage, he was humorously referred to as a "son-of-a-gun".



## BULLETINS

ATTENTION: At launching time, ropes are placed around the vessel to be launched for the express purpose of keeping spectators away from the ship.

Navy regulations forbid workers watching the proceedings from nearby scaffolding or from boats in the vicinity which are in the bay. Help prevent accidents to yourself by obeying these rules. There is plenty of room on the ground for our men to see what is happening.

WANTED TO BUY: Combination Skelgas and garbage burner stove. See Myrtle Sunde in the Cafeteria.

BOATS FOR RENT: Speedboats, trolling boats and lake cruisers. Bert Wilkins Co. dock at 5th Avenue West.

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