



PRESENTING:  
EDWARD H.  
BLACKSTONE

The only reason that Edward H. Blackstone was not born on a steamboat is that his mother moved ashore to Lake Village, New Hampshire for a few weeks to "make it easier for the doctor." For the next ten years, MAID OF THE ISLES was his home address.

In 1899, MAID OF THE ISLES was sold and the family moved to The Weirs where Blackstone's father operated the first motor boat livery in New Hampshire.

Ed. Blackstone was granted the first combination license as Master, Pilot and Engineer ever given to a 12-year old. The steamboat inspectors resisted this but since the young Blackstone knew the lake, could take apart and reassemble the engines of the time and swim well, there was no reason not to grant the license.

After graduating from Laconia High School, he attended Dartmouth for two years when he went to sea to ship before the mast on deep-sea schooners. Adventures in those days before World War I included a period of beach-combing in Bermuda, further sailing on coal schooners and periods spent in New York and back on Lake Winnepesaukee helping with steamboats.

During World War I, he served on steamers such as MINNESOTA and WESTERN STAR for the Army Transport Service. He claims to be the only sailor of the time who never saw a torpedo or a U-boat and came back without a tattoo. Achieving mate status aboard a concrete ship, SAPONA, on a Boston to Norfolk route, he recalls telling towboat crews, "don't bump us too hard!"

In 1919 he was mate aboard a new ship, EVERGREEN CITY and made two long voyages to the Baltic and to the Black Sea in her. While aboard, he achieved promotions to First Mate and Master on a temporary basis. He finished his sea career in the 1920's as Chief Mate of ALABAMA a sister to EVERGREEN CITY on the North Atlantic trade where he paused for this photograph in 1925. He married and retired from the sea to settle down on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee at this time.

Growing up with steamboats and steamboat folks was Ed. Blackstone's privilege and his family was one that served long and well on Lake Winnepesaukee steamboats, as the following pages indicate. Blackstone piloted many boats on the lake, including MT. WASHINGTON for two years at one time.

The pages and photos that follow tell of the days when steamboats were numerous and a beautiful lake in New Hampshire was the focus of their activity. One is indebted to Mr. Blackstone for his setting-forth of the story that follows.