

Tel/Fax: (301) 871-6480  
E. Mail: None.

13924 Blair Stone Lane  
Silver Spring  
Maryland 20906-3114  
January 12th 2009

FROM: Ray Ramsay.

→ TO : The Principal. ←  
Pinconning Area High-Middle School. Tel: (989) 879-4556  
Fax: (989) 879-4705

Dear Sir,

I am the naval architect who participated in your school's event of November 10th 2008, and my gratitude is somewhat overdue.

I am also the author of the published "For Whom The Bells Toll" (2006) with expectations of completing my "Toledo Express" aka Edmund Fitzgerald this Spring (2009).

In the interim, I have prepared the following article for "The PILOT" maritime newspaper out of Grand Marais, Michigan, to give appropriate credit to your school, staff and students for their drama efforts.

Please advise if you would like to make any revisions or additions.

Thank you.

Sincerely

  
Raymond Ramsay

E. Mail: None.

SILVER SPRING  
Maryland 20906-3114  
January 12th 2009

FROM: Ray Ramsay.

TO:

Ms. Mary Capogrossa

FAX: (906) 494-2636

Dear Mary,

Hello.

The following is FITZ and people-related for the PILOT.

(Pinconning is a small town over by Bay City).

The proposed article is basically complete except for a couple of school play attendee names, which I expect to receive from Roscoe...who will be receiving this epistle via 1st Class mail.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Thanx.



Raymond Ramsay

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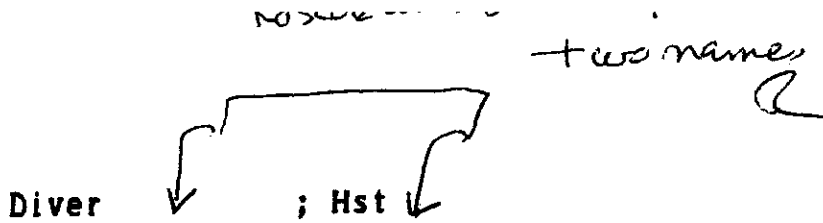
PINCONNING-Michigan AHOY.

In honor of the 50th anniversary year of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald launching, the Pinconning Area Schools Drama Department proudly presented a serious production by playwright Steven Dietz with lyrics by Eric Peltoniemi in exploration of the ore carrier's fateful history.

Spirited performances took place in the High School gym on November 14, 15, and 16 2008, after many hours of highly-committed rehearsal by High School and Middle School students enthusiastically supported by their principal and teaching staff members.

On November 10th, which was the 33rd anniversary of the tragic sinking, arrangements were made for a small party to dedicate a commemorative S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald wreath to memorialize those who perished...with a minister and Pamela Johnson officiating. The generous support provided by Linwood Beach Marina boat owners, and others present was greatly appreciated.

During the evening, a special memorial drama performance was preceded by direct and telephone discussions between the audience and notable maritime participants and surviving relatives. The voluntary "thousand points of light" maritime participants included Ms. Pamela Johnson- Daughter of Robert C. Rafferty (Fitzgerald steward); Captain Richard Orgel- (Fitzgerald 3rd Mate); Captain Dudley Parquette (S.S. Wilfred Sykes); Roy Anderson-2nd Mate (S.S. Arthur M. Anderson); Mr. Raymond Ramsay-(Fitzgerald Naval Architect); Mr. Edward Domanski- Welder;



At the close of events an auditorium-located bell, similar to the ship's bell, was rung 29 times in remembrance of the Fitzgerald mariners who perished, ~~was~~ rung by honored guests as well as participating community members.

The writer was privileged to provide an additional (30th) bell ringing for all other lake victims, who died in the course of carrying out their duties. They are estimated to exceed 6,000 (1878-1898) in addition to those of recent times.

Apart from the excellent voices and enthusiasm of the student actors, another very human face was evident through interest and courtesy of the well-mannered student body. They were a great credit to their schools, and their parents and grandparents in attendance.

While Pinconning is a considerable distance from the Whitefish Bay, Michigan site of the sinking tragedy, our thoughts and sentiments have apparently succeeded in spanning the geographical separation.

Thank you.

  
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Raymond Ramsay