

Mariners' Service At Cherry Valley

1936

With vessels impatiently waiting for their masters' hands, with nets reeled and ready for setting, sailors and fishermen took time out Sunday evening to journey to Cherry Valley for the ninth annual Mariners' Service. The usual edifice was filled even with chairs placed in all available space. The church, overlooking East Lake, stood out like a lighthouse in a sea of automobiles — automobiles which came long distances, and many of which arrived an hour before the service was to commence.

From start to finish the service had marine tang, and two hours slipped swiftly by as the huge congregation gave perfect attention to a splendid program.

The altar and the choir loft had been appropriately decorated for the occasion with symbols so familiar to those who wrest a living from the east waters. In front of the flag-draped pulpit stood a life preserver from the Glen Allan, forming a frame for a ship model. A model lighthouse, model ships, a life-belt from the Str. Alexandria, crossed oars, were other emblems used. Fish net was draped to form a background and also over the altar rail. Pictures of vessels adorned the walls, and one of Capt. Palmatier occupied a place of honor. Flags added a bright touch as did two lovely baskets of flowers, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. C. Haggerty.

Opening the service was a selection on the organ and piano by Mrs. Herbert and Mrs. N. J. Fennell. Cherry Valley choir gave a beautiful invocation hymn and Rev. P. F. Gardiner, pastor of the church, gave the invocation.

"For the Beauty of the Earth" was the opening hymn. Psalm 90 was read by Rev. David Wren of Picton United Church. Rev. Gardiner called for a divine blessing on those about to go out upon the waters, and those whom they would leave at home. "I know not What the Future Hath" was sung by the congregation.

Rev. David Wren delivered an eloquent sermon. The duet, "Love Divine, Love Excelling" was given by Miss Inesley and Mr. M. V. Dow in fine style.

Roll Call of the Dead

Captain Nelson Palmatier read the Roll Call of the Dead. Since the last sailing-out, seven Prince Edward fishermen have made the Last Port. These are Capt. Byron Bongard, Cherry Valley, who had taken an active part in the services; Capt. Murry Ackerman, a South Bay boy, who died in Rochester; Capt. Palmatier, Picton; Harry Brooker, Cherry Valley, who sailed in the British Navy; Henry Mattam, sailor, Waupoos; Manly Letta, sailor, South Bay; Maitland Young, Salmon Point, fisherman. In memory of all deceased sailors and fishermen, Capt. D. B. Christie

of Picton, who sailed the Lakes for over fifty years, placed a beautiful basket of cala lilies on the altar.

"Forever With the Lord" was sung by the congregation as a fitting conclusion to this memorial period.

Ex-Warden Amos MacDonald, in his graphic style, told of incidents which had occurred during his term as keeper at Salmon Point, which is well known to sailors as Wicked Point.

"Let The Lower Lights Be Burning," was rendered in fine harmony by the Picton Male Quartette composed of Messrs. Ern Ward, Fred Walden, Thos. Colledge and John VanDusen.

Speaking entirely without notes, and displaying a wide knowledge of men and ships, Capt. J. McCannel of Port McNicoll, Ont., and master of the S.S. Assiniboia, a C.P.R. passenger boat, held the audience as he talked of things he knows so well, leaving a deeper appreciation of those who sail, and have sailed, on the lakes. He has sailed for 47 years and made over 1100 trips up Lake Superior. He came 235 miles to attend this service.

Mr. Gardiner read a fine poem written by S. A. Clark, of Toronto. Mr. Clark is an old Milford boy and is one of the many to whom schooner days have a great fascination.

A quartette "God So Loved the World," from Stainer's Crucifixion, was a fitting conclusion to the impressive service. Parts were ably taken by Miss Inesley, Mrs. D. L. McLeod, Mr. M. V. Dow and Mr. Harold Hunter. The benediction ended the service, and as the crowd left the church, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Fennell played on organ and piano, "God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again."

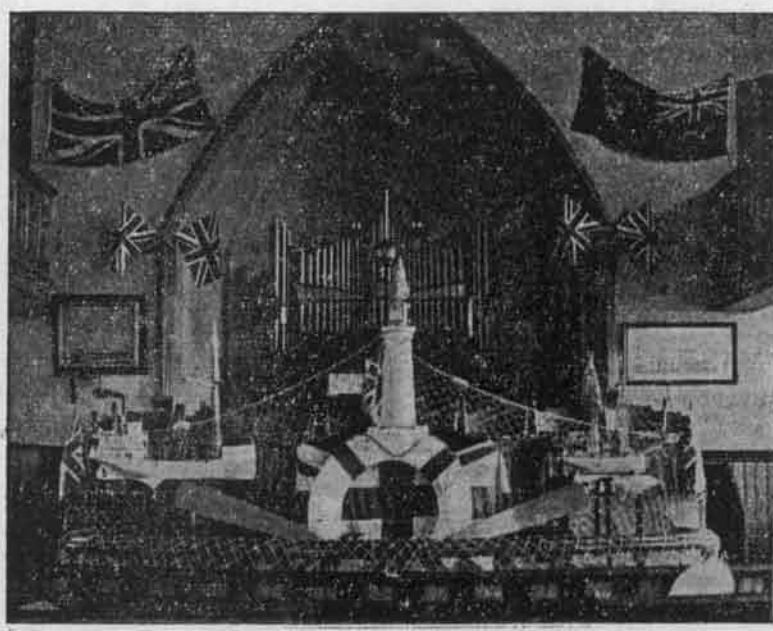
Many tributes were paid to Capt. Palmatier, and the service itself praised. All felt it to be one of the best yet.

Among the captains present were Capt. Palmatier, Capt. Con. Vanalstine of Trenton, Capt. J. McCannel of Port McNicoll, Capt. D. B. Christie of Picton. Inability of Capt. Savage to be present, owing to illness, was regretted.

Mr. C. H. J. Snider, associate editor of the Evening Telegram, Toronto, and editor of that feature oft quoted in *The Gazette—Schooner Days*—was a welcome guest and was introduced by Rev. Mr. Gardiner. Mr. Snider preferred this year to enjoy hearing others speak. Having devoted many years to collecting information concerning Schooner Days, he has found this county a hot-bed of information and spent a busy week end visiting retired mariners, and Dr. Stothers whose interest in early history of the county he highly commended.

Each year interest in this service grows and will ever prosper so long as there are sailors and their kinfolk.

MARINE SETTING FOR SERVICE



INTERIOR VIEW OF CHERRY VALLEY CHURCH

Above is shown an interior view of Cherry Valley Church taken by the *Gazette* photographer on Sunday. Rising above the flag-draped pulpit, is the model lighthouse. Fish net is draped over the altar rail and in front of the choir loft. Models of sailing vessels can be seen as well as crossed oars, flags and pictures of vessels. Several additions to the decorations were made after this picture was taken. The effect was very appropriate for this unique service.