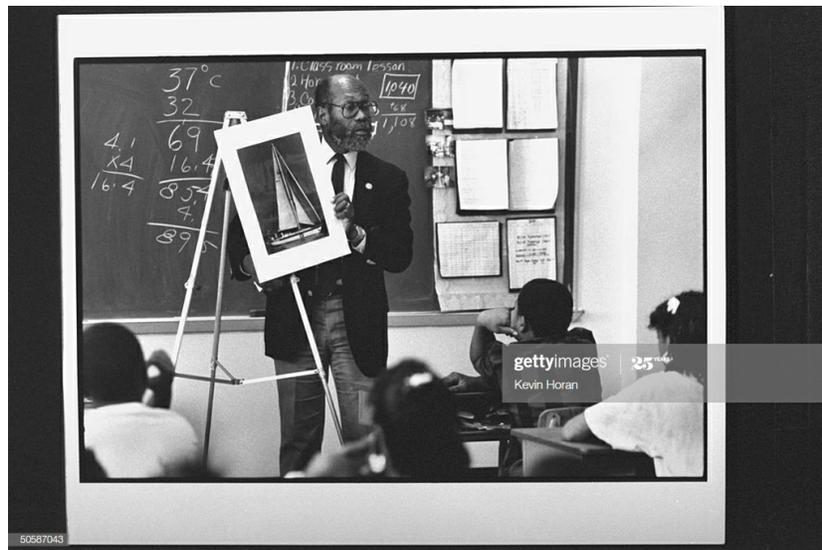


July 2020



on the Move

All New *CMM Festival* Unites Local Maritime Groups in Virtual Fundraiser



Originally scheduled for April 30, the ***Voyage through History*** gala has been rescheduled and re-branded due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CMM gala committee is planning an all new virtual event scheduled for Thursday, October 22 called the ***CMM Festival***.

With numerous interactive events planned, the evening promises to be a fun and lively time for participants. While specific details are in the works, our keynote speaker remains Bill Pinkney, who will join us remotely from Puerto Rico. The original “tele-teacher,” Chicago-born Pinkney taught remotely years before COVID-19. As the first black sailor to solo circumnavigate the globe, he engaged Chicago and Boston public school children with the science of sailing from his expedition via satellite. To honor his dedication to sailing and education, CMM is planning a comprehensive Bill Pinkney exhibit at the museum in the near future.

The ***CMM Festival*** will host a competitive paddle raise, where local maritime groups, such as **Fisherman, Sailors, Underwater Divers, Commercial Carriers, Paddle Sportsmen, Harbor Masters and Tour Boat Operators**, will all vie for top fundraiser.

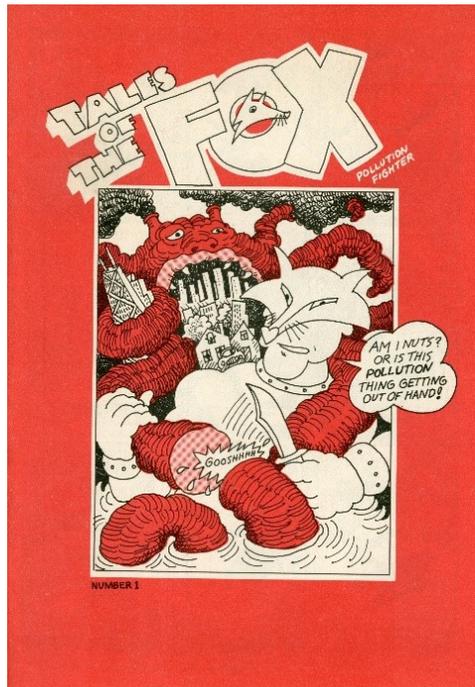
CMM wishes to thank so many of our friends, patrons and members for their support during these trying times. With COVID-19 and our recent flood damage, now more than ever we need your help to recover and set us back on track to grow. Sometimes disasters can be opportunities as well. We intend to not just recover but to use these events as a chance to make the museum better than it was before, rethinking all the things we have learned since we opened including our space usage and exhibits.

Here's your chance to help.

Please Consider Donating Here

the Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann

The Legend of *The Fox* Lives On



Growing up in McHenry, Illinois near the Fox River, I heard stories of *The Fox*, an environmental activist who was secretly plugging corporate waste pipes that dumped into the river. It felt good knowing that someone was doing something about rampant water pollution.

I learned much later in life that *The Fox* was Jim Phillips, a science teacher who encouraged his students to confront problems of pollution. *The Fox* targeted companies that polluted both water and air. In addition to his efforts against water pollution, those who polluted the air were visited with dead skunks as a reminder of their harmful ways. Through intense media coverage, Jim Phillips' actions resulted in wide audience reach. News reporters often referred to him as the "hero" of the 1960s and 70s environmental movement. He proved that one person can make a difference.

Phillips took part in the *Joliet-Marquette Tricentennial Reenactment of*

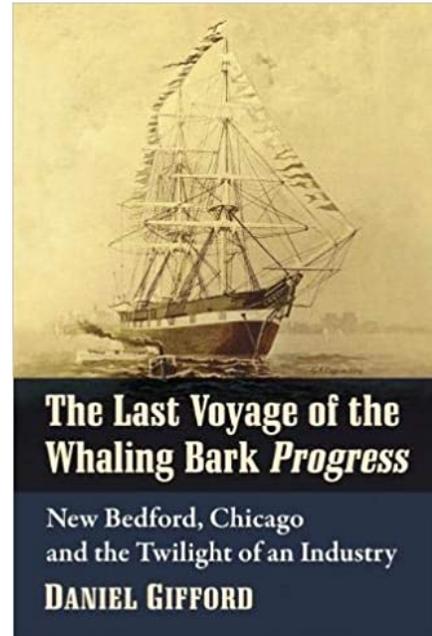
1973. He played the role of Pierre Porteret, an early voyageur environmentalist. The reenactment included over 180 performances at communities along the route, teaching locals of their three-hundred-year-old ecosystem. Jim would describe the richness of these lands traveled centuries before and how it had since changed.

The Chicago Maritime Museum collection holds many items pertaining to the *Tricentennial Reenactment* and Jim Phillips, including his memoirs in a book called *Raising Kane* and the comic book *Tales of the Fox*.

Book Highlights Chicago's Forgotten Whaling Museum

By Daniel Gifford

Imagine a museum dedicated to whaling, set on a venerable old whaling ship from New Bedford, floating majestically in Chicago—first at the foot of the State Street Bridge, and later in the gleaming White City of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Whenever I tell people this is the subject of my new book, *The Last Voyage of the Whaling Bark Progress: New Bedford, Chicago and the Twilight of an Industry* (McFarland Press, 2020), they invariably say how cool it all sounds.



The *Progress* was conceived as New Bedford's paean to American whaling. Thousands turned out for her departure from the Massachusetts city as she began her journey across North America to Chicago. On that blustery day in June 1892 few would have questioned the assumption that the whaling industry would be gloriously represented and lauded at the most important world's fair in the nation's history.

Instead, the *Progress* was a failed sideshow of marine curiosities, a metaphor for a dying industry out of step with Gilded Age America, and an unmitigated disaster. The enterprise lost her investors a significant fortune, especially Chicago coal baron Henry Weaver.

The *Progress'* years in Chicago up until the fiery dynamiting in 1902 are filled with stories both hair-raising and sad, all of which I trust will be fascinating to any Chicago history aficionado. She sank in the Chicago River with 200 schoolchildren aboard. (Spoiler alert: they escaped!) She sat encased in ice on the Columbian Exposition fairgrounds while workers built the White City around her. Henry Weaver—whose coal money brought the *Progress* to Chicago and funded the eventual “**Arctic Whaling Museum and 10,000 Marine Curiosities Between Decks**”—went into receivership. The brand-new Field Columbian Museum bought and displayed the *Progress'* vast collection in its first year, only to have museum curators rebel and unceremoniously kick the whaling artifacts out of Chicago at the first opportunity.

By the time I had worked my way to the end of the story I was fully conscious of the temptation to point fingers and cast blame. Ultimately, I leave it up to the reader to decide, but I believe simple answers are elusive. Instead, I hope that my book sparks conversations about how to honor communities that may not be ready for their final eulogy or want a museum to become their mausoleum. The story of the **Progress** is a microhistory for those interested in commemoration, speaking to us over a hundred years later about how to value an industry. All we need do is listen.

The Last Voyage of the Whaling Bark Progress: New Bedford, Chicago and the Twilight of an Industry by Daniel Gifford is available on Amazon.com and other online vendors

[Purchase Book Here](#)

CMM Board Member Dr. Ted Karamanski Discusses Chicago Maritime History with the Center for International Maritime Security



Learn more about Navy Pier, Midway and O'Hare airports, the U.S. Navy's Recruit Training Command, the Illinois Naval Militia (of captured Spanish ships!), paddlewheel aircraft carriers and more on this fascinating podcast.

[Listen To Podcast](#)

Increasing Diversity in Paddlesport

Read here about how paddling programs are involving inner-city

schools and other minority organizations.

[Read More](#)



Drain the Oceans Chicago

A new episode of the National Geographic series “Drain the Oceans” traces the final Lake Michigan voyages of the *Lady Elgin* and *Rouse Simmons*. Dive teams visit the two historic shipwrecks, and digital technology is used to “peel back” the waters of Lake Michigan to get a closer look at the debris. Scenes were filmed in Chicago in September 2019, and the hour-long episode.



[Read More Here](#)

Lac Du Flambeau Canoe-Builder Valliere Earns Top National Arts Honor

A traditional birchbark canoe builder from Lac du Flambeau is now one of the nation’s top honorees in folk and traditional arts. Wayne Valliere Sr. was selected as a 2020 National Heritage Fellow by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).



[Read More Here](#)

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum website calendar page:

<https://www.chicagomaritimemuseum.org/events.html>

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at maorourke@ameritech.net.

*We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.
If you have a Chicago maritime story idea please forward it to
maorourke@ameritech.net*

