

February 2021



on the Move

Local maritime news, events and history from the Chicago Maritime Museum

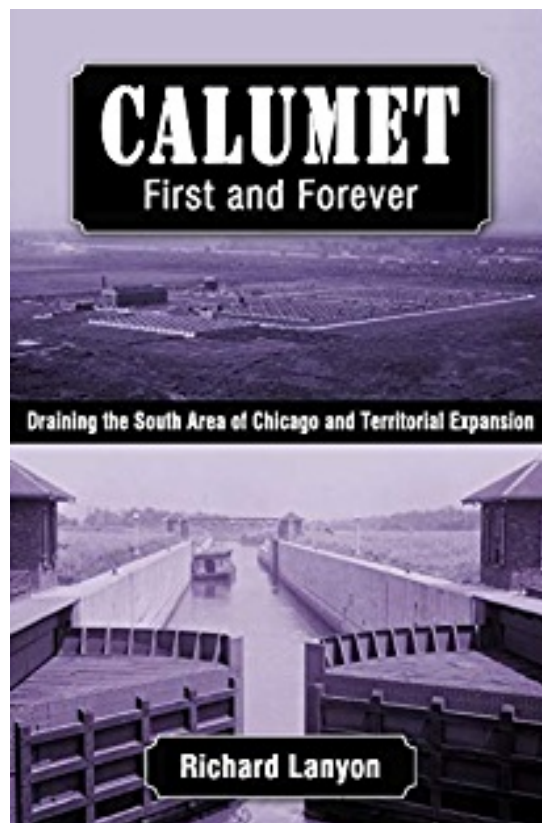
Calumet First and Forever- CMM's First Virtual Third Friday February 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Join the Chicago Maritime Museum for our first virtual Third Friday Open House on Friday, February 19, when author Richard Lanyon discusses his newest book, **Calumet First and Forever: Draining the South Area of Chicago and Territorial Expansion**.

Four years after the Chicago River flow was reversed to protect the city's water supply, the Calumet River was just as big a pollution threat. The feds finally agreed to a smaller Cal-Sag channel, and construction began in 1911, at the same time that sewage treatment research was showing promise. A daring plan for this Calumet crisis was launched in 1915 when some of the District's first intercepting sewer construction began, followed by pumping station construction in 1918 and treatment plant construction in 1920. By late summer 1922, it all came together when treatment began and the channel was opened, keeping treated sewage out of Lake Michigan.

Today, District water management continues to benefit the bi-state Calumet area, which is experiencing community revitalization, ecological restoration, and plans for a national heritage area designation.

Author Richard Lanyon has had a life-long association with the waterways in and around Chicago. He retired as executive director of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago in 2010 after a 50-year career in urban water issues.



The virtual presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19. Please register in advance for the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Questions, please contact CMM at (773) 376-1982.

[Register In Advance](#)

[Purchase Book Here](#)

the Curator's Corner by Dylan Hoffmann

Half Moon Compass

The Chicago Maritime Museum is home to the only known artifact from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's yacht, the *Half Moon*. Bill Rossberger, former commodore of the Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club, longtime CMS/CMM Board member and a Chicago lakefront historian and lecturer, discovered his club was formed on the yacht once owned by FDR. Roosevelt spent his early years sailing on the *Half Moon*, which changed hands multiple times during the 1920s and 1930s. *Half Moon* was eventually renamed *Gaviota* and sailed in the Chicago-to-Mackinac race several times, earning a third-place finish in 1924. During one of the return trips back from Michigan, the Corinthian Club was founded.

Fascinated with the story, Rossberger attempted to find the whereabouts of *Gaviota*. He managed to track down the son of the last owner, Dr. Christian Lyngby Jr. Lyngby informed Rossberger that his father's boat was blown off its mooring at Monroe Harbor in a storm and sank after crashing into the shoreline in 1944. The boat was towed into a slip near the Halsted Street bridge on the South Branch of the Chicago River.



Bill Rossberger was an early member of the Chicago Maritime Society and donated several historical artifacts to the Chicago Maritime Museum. He was able to obtain the compass - the only surviving artifact from *Gaviota* and donate it to the museum. The compass was made by the Baker Compass Company, established in 1873. The plate on the box housing the rotating compass reads, "Compass from/ President Franklin D. Roosevelt's yacht/ Half Moon/ AKA GAVIOTA on which the/ Chicago Corinthian Yacht Club was founded/ She was sunk in a gale in Chicago Harbor in 1944/ This was the only item salvaged from the wreck/ by owner Christian Lyngby M.D./ Presented to Chicago Maritime Society/ by William R. Rossberger."



Work Underway to Fix South Side Sinkholes

The Chicago Park District is tackling sinkholes on the South Side as part of its latest effort to bolster the shoreline as storms and erosion continue to ravage sections of the lakefront.

[Read More Here](#)

Viking Cruises Coming to the Great Lakes



The 378-passenger ship is scheduled to debut in early 2022 and will spend its maiden season sailing itineraries the Great Lakes region.

[Read More Here](#)

Teens Take to Sea Shanties

Gen Z's favorite app, TikTok, has just discovered sea shanties, embracing them with hearty gusto.

[Read More Here](#)



Lighthouse Tied To WWII History Crumbling Into Lake Michigan



A haunted and history-rich lighthouse will soon crumble into Lake Michigan as erosion from high water levels claims it a piece at a time.

[Read Article Here](#)

Maritime Event Calendar

Check out local maritime events at the Chicago Maritime Museum [website calendar page](#).

Submit maritime events in the Chicagoland area or story ideas to Mary Ann O'Rourke at maorourke58@gmail.com.

Ready to join or renew your membership?
Information about our membership offers can be found [here](#).
If you need further membership support please email us at
cmm@chicagomaritimemuseum.org

We hope you've enjoyed our monthly e-newsletter, On the Move.

