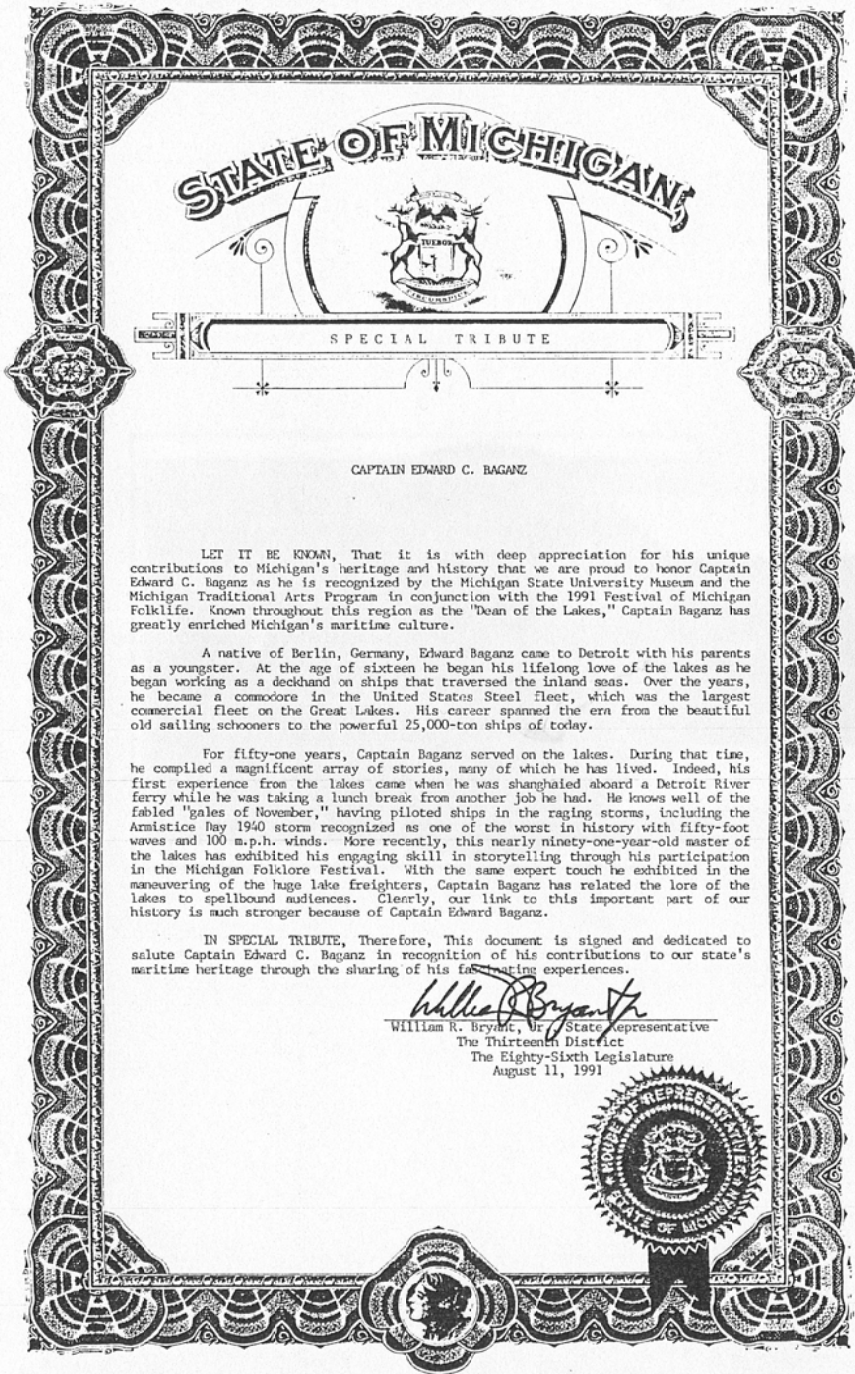


IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN EDWARD C. BAGANZ

Retired Commodore
Pittsburgh Steamship Company
United States Steel Corporation



1900-1996
ISMA Pennant #9082



COMMODORE EDWARD C. BAGANZ
 (1900-1996)

The lodge lost a devoted member when Captain Edward C. Baganz passed away on November 30, 1996, just 2 weeks short of his 96th birthday. Commodore Baganz, who held ISMA Pennant #9082, was a member of Detroit Lodge No. 7 for over 52 years having joined the lodge on February 15, 1944. He served as lodge President in 1954 and was elected a lifetime honorary member of the lodge on March 9, 1982. When he retired off the S/S Philip R. Clarke in 1966, he was Commodore of the Pittsburgh Steamship Company, United States Steel Corporation.

Despite his advanced years, Commodore Baganz attended lodge meetings virtually without fail and was one of the lodge's most visible representatives at the annual Blessing of the Fleet and Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Services. Constantly in the public eye, he possessed the image and demeanor of a seasoned Great Lakes mariner who quickly attracted the photographer's camera lens and the reporter's pen and note pad. His knowledge of the Great Lakes was extensive and spanned nearly the entire century, and he was willing to share this knowledge and his sea stories with all who approached him.

In 1991, he was honored by the State of Michigan with a Special Tribute (shown at the left) in recognition of his contributions to the state's maritime culture and heritage. He was also one of the featured Michiganians in the book "Hands Across Michigan" by Alan Kamuda, published by the Detroit Free Press in 1993. Commodore Baganz took great pride in these public honors and Detroit Lodge No. 7 certainly basked in the glow of recognition shown to its senior lodge member.

Commodore Baganz will be long remembered by Detroit Lodge No. 7. His 51 year career on the lakes, plus his 30 years of active retirement, brought nothing but respect and honor to the maritime profession and International Shipmasters' Association.

This evening's program, the lodge's 106th annual dinner dance, is held in honor and tribute to Commodore Edward C. Baganz.

Dinner Dance Committee
 ISMA Detroit Lodge No. 7
 March 1, 1997

Edward Baganz

Great Lakes captain

If you ask Ed Baganz a question, he'll answer with another. "That's a long story — you sure you got time?"

Baganz, 93, isn't exaggerating. He tells long stories. But then, he's had a long and eventful life. Capt. Edward C. Baganz, who was skipper of 12 commercial freighters, loves to tell tales of the 51 years he spent sailing more than 2-1/2 million miles on the Great Lakes.

His career started when he was shanghaied on a warm summer day in 1915. "I had a couple of hours for lunch, and I strolled around downtown, admiring the horses — there weren't many cars back then — and I strolled to the river and noticed the Owana, a side-wheeler, a little passenger boat, stopped there at the foot of Woodward.

"A gangplank went down and a brass-button guy came off and says, 'the captain wants to see you.' Of course I didn't know no captain, but I was anxious to get aboard. Looking for excitement, I went aboard and asked where to find the captain, and a cook hands me an apron and says, 'Glad you're gonna help out.' By the time I figured out what was going on, they had pulled away from shore."

Baganz's overnight trip to Port Huron and back launched a lifetime of sailing the inland seas. He settled in with the Pittsburgh Steamship Co., starting as a wheelsman on the whaleback ore carrier John Ericson.

For the next 49 years, Baganz worked his way up the ships' ladders, finally becoming master, or captain, of the Zenith City in 1940. He retired in 1966.

"It wasn't exactly like I expected. I really had to go to work. But I'd do it all again."



Captain Ed Baganz in his Grosse Pointe Park home in 1990 with some of his mementos. He was one of only four commodores of the Pittsburgh Steamship Co., which was a subsidiary of U.S. Steel and, at one time, owner of the largest steamship fleet on the Great Lakes. At right, Baganz shows off a souvenir of his career with U.S. Steel. "I spent eight straight months on the water," he says. "My wife and I would have a honeymoon every year." Baganz's wife, Cecilia, died in 1979. Her ashes were committed to the deep in Lake Superior near Silver Bay, Minnesota. "That's what she wanted. She was a swimmer, and she liked the water. I plan to join her when it's time."



Remember Me
Capt. Edward C. Baganz Commodore Retired

More information on the Michigan Heritage Award that Captain Baganz received in 1991 can be found at the following link:

http://museum.msu.edu/s-program/MH_Awards/awards/1991eb.html