

Mr John R Steele. First National Bank  
Waukegan Illinois.

Dec 15, 1971

Dear Mr Steele you no doubt will be suprised at getting a letter from me but after reading the account of the finding of the Schooner Rouse Simmons I had to drop you a note I knew the old ship very well also the whole crew a couple of them were from Waukegan by the name of Kettleson two brothers.

It seems only yesterday that my cousin and I set on the dock and watched the Tug Gifford from Manistique come to pull her out in the lake she had been tied to the dock for about two months and the tide and winds had washed a bank of sand around her so bad that it took the tug till about 2.30 P.M. to free her, we left and went to our hunting camp down the lake to Barque Point where we stayed a few days about five oclock a terrible Northwester blew up along with a foot of very wet heavy snow that is what sent her to the bottom.

The boat was owned by a Capatian Nelson rented by Herman Schuneman he was only a Captian by name but a very fine fellow knew ever kid in town we used to go down have the run of the ship and stay for a meal once in awhile, She was an old broken back ship with a hump admidship like a camel, they would pile the hold full of Evergreen balsam and cedar bouahd along with all the trees they could pack in on deck they would pile them up about seven feet high and then over the whole deck they would build a housing of one by twelve by twenty feet long clear hemlock lumber so that the deck was completly covered, when he got into Clark Street these were carefully removed and sold to some lumber Co, a lot of the trees he cut were cut from land owned by my father who was in the meat business in Thompson he supplied the boat with meat and groceries, He had been coming into Thompson for years so we all looked forward to seeing him each fall he paid us kids a nickle a pound for picking evergreens we did not get rich at that but it kept us out of mischief and bought us a few boxes of cartridges by the way I was born in Thompson in 1893 still love the old place will move back as soon as my wife retires,

The crew were hired this way they not so much a day and a bonus if they stayed the whole season and returned to Chicago with the boat three of them did not go back by boat stayed on went to work in the lumber camps, I knew Mrs Schuneman and her Daughter Elsie well they tried to carry on by R.R. for a few years but it did not turn out for them.

I dont know if you ever heard of this or not but Cap Schuneman carried a leather bill fold wrapped with a heavy rubber band some years after the sinking a fisherman out of Two Rivers recovered it in a net after drying it out carefully all the papers were very rusty read it was finally returned to Mrs Scheunman,

The tug that sighted the Schooner was the Burger owned by the Coffey Fishing Co of Manistique he owned three of them it was Captian Dan Mc Cauley in charge he was one of the best from Beaver Island, I am happy they at last found the wreck all kinds of stories made the round but this is it every one in the small town let bad he was kind of a santa claus to us all


If you ever have a spare picture of her I would love to have one to put along with my other old sailing vessels, along with his trees he also had about a dozen big buck deer he always bought a dozen or so got a good price for them from some exclusive club in the city.

I hope you have not been too bored reading all this but I know the story of the Rouse Simmons very well and could not help passing some of it on.

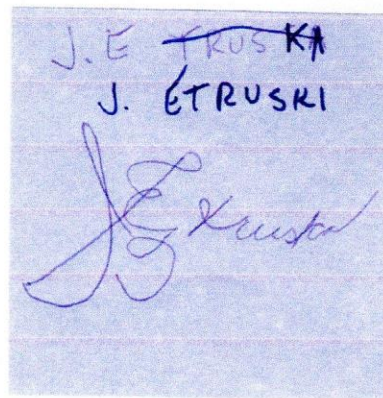
Excuse my typing and errors I am seventy eight years old but still very active hunting and fishing is my hobby have a nice camp on a fine piece of Virgin River Front about twenty miles from Thompson a good wife and Three fine boys.

With my Best Personal Regards I remain.

Respectfully yours,



P.S. Hope you and yours have a very happy Holiday season.



J. E. TRUSKA  
J. ETRUSKI

