

## Restored Memories

Duane Madison

Most of the old time fishermen are gone from Duluth Township and very few of their boats are still around. Most of those that are still around are under the weather, so to speak, and not too



many of those few are still serviceable. A few weeks ago I had the privilege to visit David Hammer's well lit and heated shop on the McQuade Road where there are two local boats being prepped for rebuilding. One was built by Einar Hendrickson who was the father-in-law of our friend Helen Hendrickson. Einar crafted the boat at his farm on the Ryan Road in a lean-to fastened to the barn. He named it the Strand after his home town area in Sweden. The picture of the Strand was taken on its launching day in 1947 when it was first put into Lake Superior close by the mouth of the Talmage River. In the picture, Einar is in the small skiff and his son Harold is on the Strand. In later years Russ Myrdahl used the Strand until he berthed it on

Stoney Point. Many of you remember it sitting for many years evolving into a weathered work of art until Mr. Hammer brought it home for a long needed restoration.



The next boat in Mr. Hammer's work shop is the Lark which was one of the many boats at the Blue Bird Landing where our Homesteader friend Skipper Sironen grew up. The Landing holds many memories not only for the people who lived in this area but also for those who drove out to fish, play, picnic or even just to look at the scenery on the North Shore. One of the most beautiful scenes was the Blue Bird Landing with

its trolley car diner and all the boats painted white with blue trim. Each boat was named after a bird. I remember the **Blue Jay**, **Blue Bird**, **Lark** and **Wren** and there were more. To a nine year old boy like me at the time, the Landing seemed to have a bit of magic to it.

It occurred to me that I know at least five people doing boat restorations. Many thanks to them and to others who are helping to preserve those boats and our memories. If you do know of others doing this work of love or know of any boats needing rescue, please feel free to contact me. Stories and histories of local boats are also welcome.

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