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November 6, 2023 meeting.

Attendees: Harry Redford, Daniel Redford, Tony and Linda Homolka, Eddie Weaver, Bill Conner, Ralph Luft, Doug Petee, Gherin Johnston, Henry Hinojosa, Mike Costello, Tom Cooper and John Stone.

The 50/50 raffle was won today by Gherin Johnston.

Treasurer's report: We have \$ 165.00.

It was brought up that November 10th is the 48th anniversary of the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. A retiree of JR Whiting, Paul Spengler (dec'd) lost his uncle, William Spengler of Toledo, Ohio, a Watchman on that day.

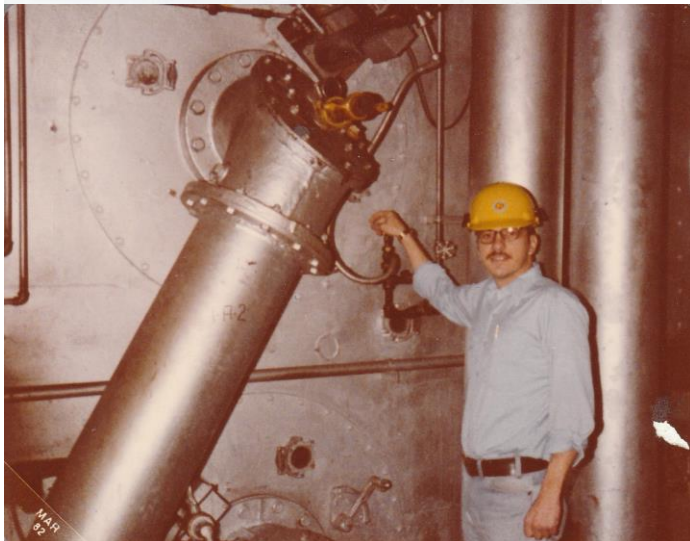
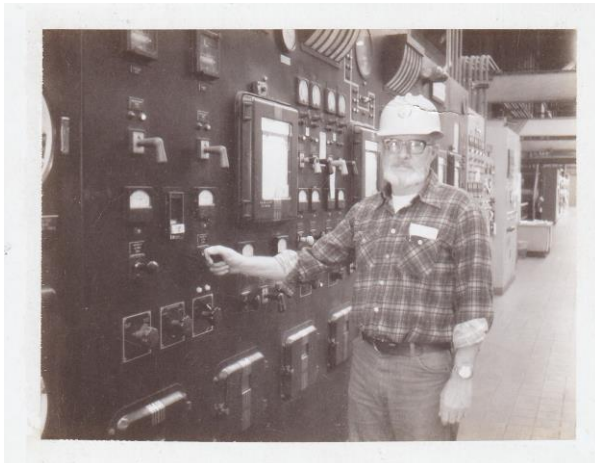
I copied this information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration website.

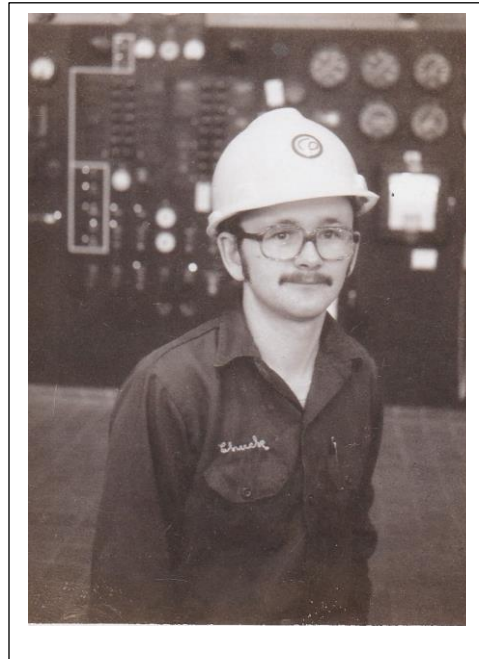
“Although there is speculation that the *Fitzgerald* broke in half on the surface as the bow and stern rode the crests of the two large waves that struck the *Anderson* earlier, the Coast Guard’s final report suggests the *Fitzgerald* instead nose-dived into a large wave, was unable to recover because it had lost so much buoyancy, and plunged to the bottom of Lake Superior in seconds. As the heavy cargo shifted forward quickly while the *Fitzgerald* was going down, the bow of the ship hit the bottom with such force that the vessel snapped in two.

Canadian songwriter Gordon Lightfoot immortalized the loss of the *Fitzgerald* and all 29 aboard with his 1976 hit song "Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald." On July 4, 1995, divers recovered the *Fitzgerald*'s bell from the bottom of Lake Superior, replacing it with a replica engraved with the names of the crew. In a ceremony at the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum at Whitefish Point on November 10, 1995, the bell was presented to the relatives of the crew and rung 30 times: once for each member of the crew and a final time in honor of all those who have lost their lives at sea. The bell remains at the Shipwreck Museum today.



Tom Cooper brought in some old photos of Whiting employees. See how many you can name!





Howard Wilson, Gherin Johnston, Henry Hinjosa, Ron Swartz, Lynn Petee, Lynn Thatcher, Chuck Fuhr.



We have decided to have our Christmas luncheon on **Monday, December 4th at 11:00.** ***Please bring a friend or spouse to join us to celebrate the holidays.*** We will have some kind of fund-raiser to add to our treasury money and donate the amount to a charity of our choosing. Pass this invitation on to any retiree you know.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Homolka