

February 8, 1995

## THE OLD WOODEN SHIP REMAINS

As told to Bill Colonna, Jr., by Ben Colonna, Jr.

The old wooden ship remains just east of the Norfolk and Western Railroad on Colonna's Shipyard property known as the Graves Plant.

This ship was built on the west coast of U.S. where lumber was plentiful during the 1st World War as a general cargo ship. She was built with a steam engine for power and with cargo booms fore and aft of pilot house.

She was in Colonna's Shipyard for repairs in the latter 1920's. The owner wanted to do some burning in the engine room of the ship with an acetylene torch and Captain Ben Colonna, Sr. refused saying there was too much oil in the bilges and the risk of fire was too great. So the owner asked if he could hire a burner himself and do this job at the shipyard. Captain Ben's answer was no, so it was taken next door to the Atlantic Creosote Plant dock and the job was started by a burner the owner hired where she caught on fire and burned to the waterline as Captain Ben had predicted.

The old hull is 53 inches thick in places and very well put together. On one occasion a floating derrick with a clam shell bucket tried in vain to tear apart and removed the old hull only to give up, saying he was going to ruin his rig in the process.

On several occasions, young boys while swimming would dive into the cargo hole which was underwater and come up under the submerged decks becoming disoriented and drowning.

On an old shipyard land plot, Captain Will Colonna, Sr. wrote the name of this vessel next to her outline. If this information is found, it will be made part of this history.

Ben Colonna

2/8/1995

W. W. Colonna Jr.

2/8/1995

SKETCH BY  
BEN COLONNA, JR.

