

ABOUT YOUR UNCLE SAM MEDAL

The mail boat Uncle Sam pictured on the observe of your medal began service on Lake Winnepesaukee in 1906 and continued its uninterrupted service until 1962. ^{56 years} Starting out as a steam powered boat it was converted over to diesel engine in 1943. It is estimated that during her long service she carried 392,000 passengers. Commissioned by an act of Congress in 1916, the Uncle Sam was "the only floating post office in the world." She delivered mail to eleven islands; Loon, Pine, Bear, Beaver, Three Miles, East Bear, Birch, Sandy, Idlewild, Jolly, and Mark. The Uncle Sam was 65 feet long, weighed 40 tons and had a 14 foot beam. She became a familiar sight for many on the Lake, and will always hold a place of honor among the annals of boating history on Lake Winnepesaukee.

The man most remembered for his association with the Uncle Sam is, of course, Captain Edward Lavallee who was her owner, captain and post master from 1934 until the Uncle Sam was retired from service in 1962. The name of Captain Ed. is also associated with other boats on the big Lake including the first Uncle Sam on which he also served.

It was customary among the ancients to preserve the memory of their heroes or important events by commemorating them with a monument of bronze. Thus, it is fitting that the memory of the Uncle Sam should also be preserved in this manner.

The medal commemorating the Uncle Sam was intended from the very start to be a collectors item. Each medal has an antique bronze finish, and is individually serial numbered. The name of the owner of each medal will be recorded on an official record. The medal is very limited in number with only 990 being struck in bronze, and 10 in sterling silver. The medal was designed by Hector L. Bolduc, minted by the Lombardo Mint, is 1/8 inch thick, and is 1½ inches in diameter.