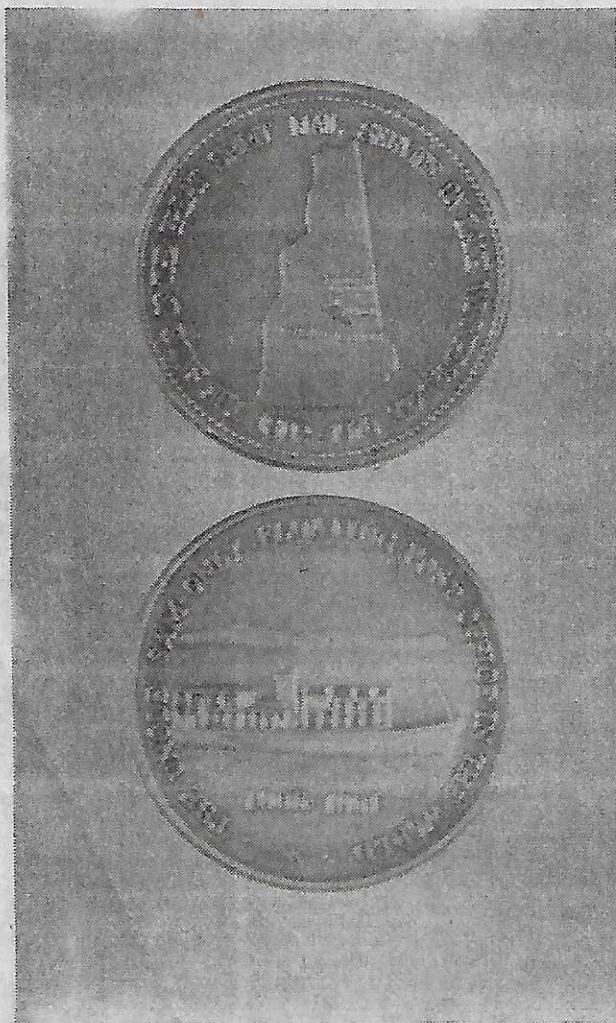




"I PRESENT YOU with the bronze in memory of the Uncle Sam." Charles H. Bolduc, left, father of Hector Bolduc, designer of the medal honoring the old mailboat, presents first one to Capt. Edward J. Lavallee who skippered the vessel in its over a quarter century of service on Lake Winnepesaukee. Looking on are two of Hector's 13 brothers and sisters, Ernest, left, and "Sam" Bolduc.

Bronze Coin Commemorates

Only Floating Post Office



THE UNCLE SAM, only floating post office in the world, is now commemorated in the form of a bronze coin designed by Gilford historian Hector Bolduc. Available in limited numbers, they may be obtained through his brother, Ernest Bolduc.

The only floating post office in the world, the Uncle Sam, is now being commemorated in bronze in the form of a coin designed by Gilford historian, Hector Bolduc.

The obverse side of the medal pictures the Uncle Sam which began service on Lake Winnepesaukee in 1906 and continued uninterruptedly until 1962. Starting out as a steam powered boat, it was converted over to diesel engine in 1943, and it is estimated that during her long service she carried close to 400,000 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 11 islands.

The man most remembered for his association with the Uncle Sam is Capt. Edward Lavalley who was her owner, captain, and postmaster from 1934 until the Uncle Sam was retired from service in 1962.

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

In making the presentation to Capt. Lavalley at his home on Paugus Bay, Charles H. Bolduc, Hector's father stated in part: "I present you with the bronze in memory of the Uncle Sam." Also present for the occasion were two brothers, Charles H. "Sam" Bolduc, Jr., and Ernest G. Bolduc. Hector, who is in Washington studying for the priesthood, was unable to be here. The well-known Gilford historian is attending Mt. St. Mary's Seminary and expects to become ordained to the priesthood in 1972.

This 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 is inscribed on the reverse side. The medal is a symbol of distress among less-educated and lower-income groups. In a geographic basis, Northeastern adults had lower rates.