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USLHS gets Lightship LV 605





Top—Miss Elizabeth Loughlin of Washington, DC launches LV 605 on 4 May 1950.

Right—LV or WAL 605 slides down the ways at Rice Brothers.

Below—WAL 605 as Overfalls shortly after launch and prior to being outfitted. Sea trials were conducted on 7 February 1950 and she was delivered to the Coast Guard on 15 February 1950.



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The Society Lightship RELIEF (LV 605)

LV 605 was constructed by the Rice Brothers of Boothbay Harbor, ME in 1950. She is one of only 6 built by the Coast Guard, all previous lightships were constructed by the Lighthouse Service. After commissioning she served as Overfalls, off Delaware, from 1950 until 1960 when the vessel was transferred to California to serve on the Blunts (Reef) station. In 1969 our vessel became the Relief and until 1975 operated out of Astoria, OR relieving other lightships when they came in for a shipyard period.

In 1976 the government gave the vessel to the city of Astoria, OR. They were unable to make use of the ship and offered her to the highest bidder. Luckily for maritime history the last owner, Mr. Alan Hosking of Woodside, CA, topped the bid of a local scrap yard. Mr. Hosking installed a new hydraulic steering system, radar, fathometer and a hull protection system. He had the tanks cleaned and the ship painted. Since 1979 the ship has been basically unused at anchor in Half Moon Bay, CA. The interior is in excellent condition and very close to the way she was when under the care of the Coast Guard. In addition to the ship Mr. Hosking gave the society a check for $10,000 toward having the vessel painted.

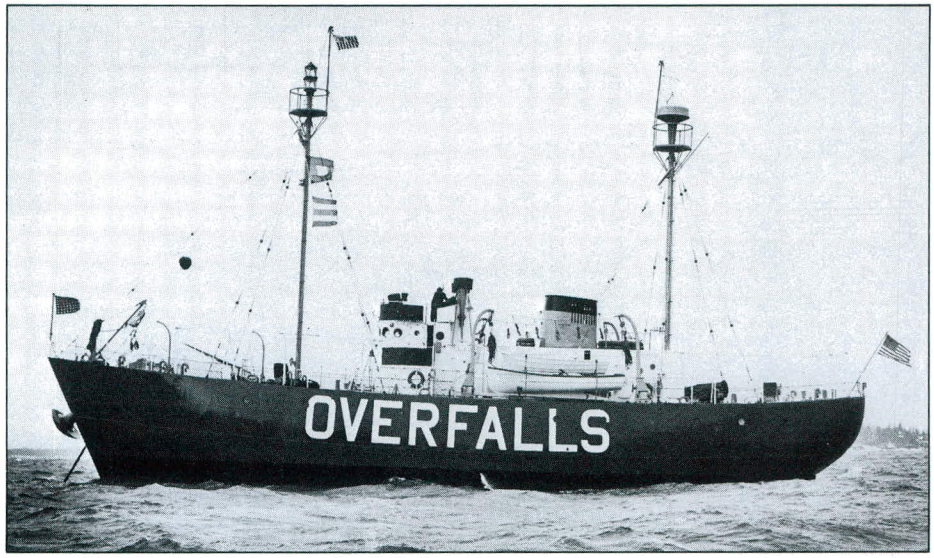
STATISTICS

SIZE—length 128 feet—beam 30 feet—draft 11 feet—displacement 617 tons

PROPULSION—Atlas Imperial 8 Cylinder diesel main engine (450 hp) powering a single screw.

SPEED/RANGE—11.5 knots, 22,000 miles

FUEL/WATER—49,500 gals./13,028 gals.



ROBERT B. RICE
BOX 607
BOOTHBAY HARBOR, MAINE 04538

RICE BROS. CORP. 5
1892 - 1956

19 July 1986

Mr. Ted Miles
Trustee USLHS
1839 15th St #156
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Mr. Miles;

Sorry to be so late in answering your letter re WAL-605 OVERFALLS, however summer is a very busy time of year for us. We certainly are glad to hear that she will join her sistership, WAL-604 COLUMBIA which is located at the Columbia River Maritime Museum at Astoria, Oregon.

I have enclosed negatives and information list, the negatives are dated and identified, please return them when you are finished having copies made. We still have all the plans and I would be more then glad for you to have from them whatever you need. Let me know what ones you want, over all about 172 drawings exist and it would be much better for us if we knew which ones you need.

The Overfalls was hull number 3,250 and kept 150 men busy for two years in the small town of East Boothbay, population at the time was 600.. Over the years, 1892-1956 Rice's built four lightships and three of them are now located in museums of which we are pleased. My Grandfather H.W. Rice built two and my father and self built two of which the Overfalls had a mind of her own, always in trouble.

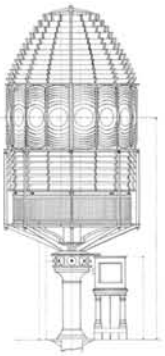
She was involved in a small fire when she was about 65% completed, which could of been serious if not for the fact she was steel. Going overboard on launch day she busted the ways on the port side and almost refused to be hauled into dockside. On her way back in from sea trials she grounded herself out on a sand bar 200 feet from her berth, when she departed from the yard we all gave her a real good-by wave..

I remember her sea trial as if it were yesterday. I had invited the 7th & 8th grades to come along, about 55 youngsters and we struck heavy seas from the time we started until we got back. Of course half of the youngsters and CG crew on board got sea sick, so bad in the after crews quarters that we had to replace a dozen mattress's.

Hope the enclosed negatives are of some help, let me know about the plans, good luck with the Overfalls..

Sincerely,
Robert B. Rice

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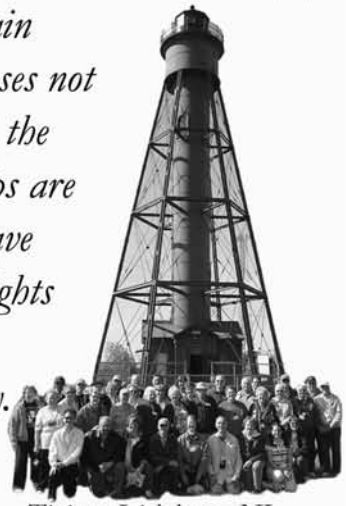
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Tinicum Lighthouse, NJ

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