

Chapter 03110G 10/3/1923

SS SCHODACK

**SEA RESCUE #1
Captain Clifton Smith**

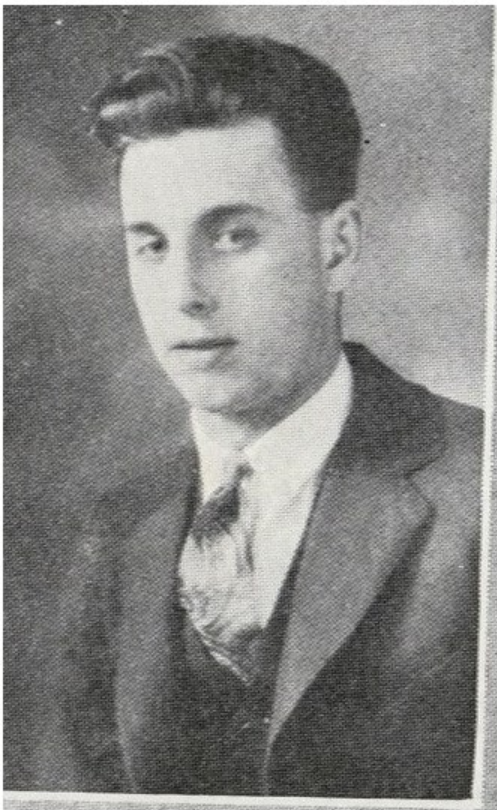
**ALBIN PIERCE
Former 1923 crew member**



SS SCHODACK

9/27/2024

Albin was probably not on this ship on 10/3/1923. He was likely a summer deck hand in his Junior high school year.



Albin Wesley Pierce 1924
Born 9/3/1905

I assume that he went back in Sept 1923 for his Senior year. He appears in the June 1924 Montclair high school yearbook.

This sea rescue chapter must have brought joy to Albin who had been with the Schodack crew just 4 months earlier.

The Schodack would have another sea rescue in 1938.

CAPTAIN AND ONE OF CREW DROWNED.

New York, Wednesday.—The British schooner, Governor Parr, from Ingramport for Buenos Ayres with lumber, has been abandoned in a water-logged condition. Six members of the crew were rescued by the American steamer Schodack. The captain and one man were drowned.—Exchange.

The Governor Parr (970 tons) is registered at Bridgetown, Barbados.

Liverpool England Daily Post, 10/4/1923, Thu ·P8

Late yesterday a wireless was received from the steamer Schodack, bound from Rotterdam for New York, that the schooner had been abandoned by the members of the crew in an unnamed position after the captain and one seaman had met death. Six men were saved.

Philadelphia Inquirer. 10/4/1923, Thu ·P15

The other six climbed to the masthead, lashed themselves secure, and resisted storm, hunger and thirst until they were rescued by the **Schodack** Wednesday night. A cat and dog, the vessel's mascots, also were saved.

On October 3 the British steamer **Schodack**, then 200 miles off Halifax, sighted a storm tossed ship, two of her masts gone, and two white lights, which have no particular significance as nautical signals, burning in the rigging. She pulled alongside and boarded the derelict. Five of the crew still were living. The captain and one seaman evidently had been washed overboard in the storm. The survivors were in a pitiable condition and told incoherent stories of the disaster which had overtaken

SS Schodack Crew - October 1923 Baltimore Sun Newspaper.



Crew of the SS Schodack. October 1923



Freighter

Saved 18 sailors and 2 woman from the Gov Parr sailing schooner.

1923

Capt. Clifton Smith Knighted By King of Norway for Rescuing 20 Persons on Steamer *Smaragd*

The following communication was sent by the Maritime Commission to Captain Clifton Smith of the *S.S. Schodack* which, on December 23, rescued the 20 persons aboard the Norwegian steamer *Smaragd*, as well as two dogs and the ship's cat.

"The United States Maritime Commission has just been informed by the Department of State that His Majesty, the King of Norway, has conferred upon you knighthood of First Class of the Royal Order of Saint Olav.

"This is one of Norway's most distinguished orders.

"In notifying the Acting Secretary of State, the councilor of the Norwegian Legation said: 'I have the honor in the temporary absence of the minister, to bring to Your Excellency's kind attention that His Majesty, the King of Norway, in deep gratitude, appreciation and admiration of the heroic act of the captain and the crew of the United States *S.S. Schodack* in rescuing with danger of their own lives, passengers and crew of the Norwegian steamer *Smaragd* on the Atlantic Ocean on December 23, last year, has bestowed upon Captain Clifton Smith the knighthood of First Class of the Royal Order of Saint Olav.

" 'I should feel much obliged for Your Excellency's good offices in order that Captain Clifton Smith may be advised as to the above. . . .'

"Once again, the Maritime Commission conveys to you and the men of the *Schodack* our deep appreciation for your exemplary adherence to the finest traditions of the sea and thereby your contribution to humanity."



SV Governor Parr

Governor Parr was a four-masted schooner. After the partial 1923 sinking, the famous '**Ghost Ship**' roamed the Atlantic Ocean a few years with no crew.

On October 3rd, 1923, the wooden schooner GOVERNOR PARR on voyage from Ingramport to Buenos Aires with a cargo of lumber, was abandoned after a storm had dismasted her in the North Atlantic. During that, the Captain and a crew member were killed.

The survivors were rescued by SS SCHODACK. GOVERNOR PARR, despite her damage, remained afloat and drifted in the Atlantic.

On January 1st, 1924, US coast guard cutter TAMPA tried to tow her to Halifax, but in a heavy gale, GOVERNOR PARR broke away.

GOVERNOR PARR remained drifting across the Atlantic many years after her abandonment in 1923 and even passed the Canary Islands. The ship's builder, Huntley & Sons, couldn't dream of a better demonstration of shipbuilding quality.

The ship became a legend and was subject to many ghost ship stories. Unfortunately, it is unknown what her final fate was.