



The Edson is not too far from my home in Ohio. I recently went north to lend a hand and stopped to see Mike and Mary Simmons at their lakeside cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. They were great hosts and I enjoyed a very relaxing visit with them sharing a lot of sea stories with Mike. When I finally found the ship, I sat in my truck and just stared at her in awe for 5-10 minutes as all sorts of memories went flashing through my mind. I finally got out and took some pictures and then noticed her listing heavily with her mooring lines tight as banjo strings. Strong winds that night had blown her out from shore and she was sitting on a ledge! The next day she had straightened up somewhat. I soon met the man in charge, Mike Kegley and he said the EPA had contacted him about a puddle of oil in the engine room and he assigned me the job of finding the oil and its source. It turned out to be more of a challenge than I had thought it would be...without lights. I entered the space through a new doorway in the bulkhead behind the reduction gears, armed with a flashlight due to minimal lighting from a small generator topside, and after stumbling around and bumping my head a couple of times I found the EPA's oil! It was leaking from the sump on one of the ship's generators. After cleaning up the mess with rags and oil-dry to make sure the deck plates weren't slippery, I suggested putting the cover plates back on to stop the leak, but had to wait to get an okay from Mike Kegley. So, it was off to lunch with other volunteers and lots of navy stories told around the table and then to an afternoon of painting on the fantail. The next morning, Friday, Mike was there and gave the OK to put the plates back on the generator sump. Just like the old days, lots of interference to remove and after 40 years nothing comes apart easy! I discovered my old MUX "can-do" attitude still gets the job done and before lunch time! But, with a four hour drive home for supper I skipped lunch with the guys, took early liberty and headed home.

The volunteers are doing a great job! I strongly



Today is the first of what I hope to be many, doing what I can to help out on the EDSON. This is not easy work for a guy my age going on 122. At least that is what my body feels like working in the cool weather up here in Michigan. The men and women who have been doing their best to get the ship looking good are doing a great job. They hope to move the EDSON in about three weeks to its permanent spot. When I go back to Bay City I'll take the camera and get some shots of where that is. The bow and fantail have been painted. They are getting the Port side ready to take on guests. Once they move her, they will concentrate on the Starboard side. Like I told them, when we washed the fire trucks we always did the officer's side, (starboard) first. Then if we just happened to forget the port side the officer never knew. He had no reason to go to that side!

-Mike Simmons

suggest that if you can, go there and lend a hand. You will enjoy it and I promise that you will get emotional when you see her. When they saw my MUX hat the guys said, "you were on Rod Sterling's show, the *Twilight Zone*!"

There's still a lot of work to do on her, but given the time, help and money they will get the job done. Call Mike Kegley 1-810-964-4113 and he'll answer all your questions. Show up any weekday at 9 AM and they will find you a job!

-Neil Cendrosky