

OBJECTS FROM TUG WASHED UP IN L. I.

1956 Log Book and Life Ring From Missing Craft Found at Beaches on Sound

A 1956 log book of the tugboat Jim Steers, which disappeared with her crew of three in Long Island Sound on Sunday, was found washed up on a Kings Point, L. I., beach yesterday.

A few hours earlier, a ring type of life preserver and a small ladder were recovered from a near-by beach. The life ring, according to the Kings Point police, bore in gold letters the legend "Jim Steers, Northport, N. Y." The four-foot ladder, made of wood and painted red, was unmarked but was similar to the type used on tugs.

The three objects were recovered about one and one-half miles east of Stepping Stones Light. It was near here that Capt. Anthony Hines, master of the tug Chaplain, had reported seeing two small vessels going east in the Sound Sunday. The tank barge being towed by the Chaplain struck an unidentified object between 12:30 and 1 A. M., shortly after passing the two vessels.

Unable to Point to Spot

Captain Hines told Coast Guard investigators here yesterday that he had been unable to get a good look at the two vessels. He was unable to show on a map where he had seen them.

As for the possibility that it was the Jim Steers that was involved in a collision with the tank barge, Hygrade 18., Captain Hines said that unless the tugboat were already submerged it would have been impossible for it to get under the barge's tow ropes and strike the front of the barge.

When he arrived at Pier 9 in Staten Island later that day, Captain Hines continued, the captain of the barge, Trond Osthus, informed him that the barge had struck a submerged object about 1 A. M.

Captain Osthus, who lives at 861 Fifty-sixth Street, Brooklyn, said that at about 12:45 A. M. he heard a noise and that the barge bounced. The first bump, he said, was felt the forward part of the barge and then along the bottom of the barge.

After flashing a light to inform the tug that something had happened, he said, he ran on deck from his cabin aft. Looking from the stern he saw bubbles and then a black object, about fifty feet astern, which he took to be a buoy. It disappeared after four or five minutes.

Says He Saw No Lights

He noted the time of the incident in his log book as 12:45 A. M. He said he did not see any vessels or lights at the time, except for the green light of the lighthouse.

The object behind the barge, he said, was not lit. He said he heard no cries for help.

Captain Osthus said one dent on the front of the barge was two to three feet above the waterline and sixteen to eighteen inches in diameter. There were others, he added.

Comdr. Frederick K. Arzt, in charge of the hearing, adjourned the investigation pending an underwater examination of the barge.

A surface search by the Coast Guard was extended to the Kings Point area yesterday.