

**Historical Marker - L1831C - Shipwrecks and the Coast Guard / The Escanaba (Marker ID#:L1831C)**



**Front - Title/Description**

***Shipwrecks and the Coast Guard***

In autumn 1929 raging storms sank four ships on Lake Michigan between Grand Haven and Milwaukee. Two went down with all hands—a total of seventy-seven men. The cargo ship Andaste departed Grand Haven for Chicago on September 9 and sank with her twenty-five-man crew south of Holland. The carferry Milwaukee sank en route to Grand Haven on October 22 with a crew of fifty-two. Coast Guard personnel stationed in Grand Haven were hampered in search and rescue attempts by vessels unable to travel in heavy seas and the absence of ship-to-shore radios on the foundered ships. As a result, the U.S. Congress funded six additional Great Lakes Coast Guard cutters. Grand Haven became the home port of Escanaba in December 1932.

**Significant Date:**

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

**Registry Year:** 1991    **Erected Date:** 1991

**Marker Location**

**Address:** Escanaba Park

**City:** Grand Haven

**State:** MI    **ZipCode:**

**County:** Ottawa

**Township:**

**Lat:** 43.06151900 / **Long:** -86.23675300

**Web URL:**

**Back - Title/Description**

***The Escanaba***

On December 9, 1932, the 165-foot Coast Guard cutter Escanaba arrived in Grand Haven, her home port until she was called to duty in World War II. On June 13, 1943, while escorting a convoy from Greenland to Newfoundland, Escanaba was destroyed by an enemy submarine and sank in the North Atlantic. Only two crewmen survived. Grief-stricken, the citizens of Grand Haven organized a war bond campaign and raised over one million dollars in three months to pay for a "second Escanaba." Escanaba II was commissioned in 1946, but never visited Grand Haven. In 1987 Escanaba III was commissioned in Grand Haven; she is now stationed in Boston. Each August, Grand Haven has celebrated its relationship with the Coast Guard by hosting a festival that commemorates the founding of the United States Revenue Marine on August 4, 1790.