

*DeLand Army Tugboat
Preservation Group*



Tug Tales #5 October 2013

DeLand's ST 1982 in the Channel Islands:

Yet Another Olson Army Tugboat is Found

ST 1982, now the "Elektra", was built in 1953/1954, and has minor differences from the World War Two boats the American Machinery Corp produced, but it is one of ten US Army post-war tugboats **possibly** worked on by the

Olson Corporation. A very recent photo was taken at a shipyard in St. Helier, Jersey, the Channel Islands; which are located between England and France in the English Channel. This makes a total of eight possible DeLand US Army tugboats existing at this point in time: *and six are WW2 Warboats!*

"Elektra", formerly known as "Groton", was laid up in the 1990's with the plan to convert it to a yacht. As happens so often, the work was not completed, but it is now for sale for \$53K. The ad says needs only paint, interior photos look good; apparently from long dry storage at an Army Depot in England and with very low hours on the original diesel.



This boat possibly was started at the Olson Corp boat works on Lake Beresford and then been finished up by Rawls Brothers Contracting, a shipyard in Jacksonville. The first boat of ten 65 footers for the US Army, the **ST 1978**, was 100% completed by the Olson Corp but the contract was ended thus making it difficult to say how much of any given later boat was actually made in DeLand. It is certainly possible Rawls made some from scratch. Amazingly enough, the original Olson Corp builder's plaque for **ST 1982** was found recently in pieces (it was being melted as scrap!). This may mean that it was made by Olson, but never installed, as Rawls Bros would have wanted their own plaque in place. DeLand native Lynn Purvis now owns the **ST 1982** Olson builder's plaque.