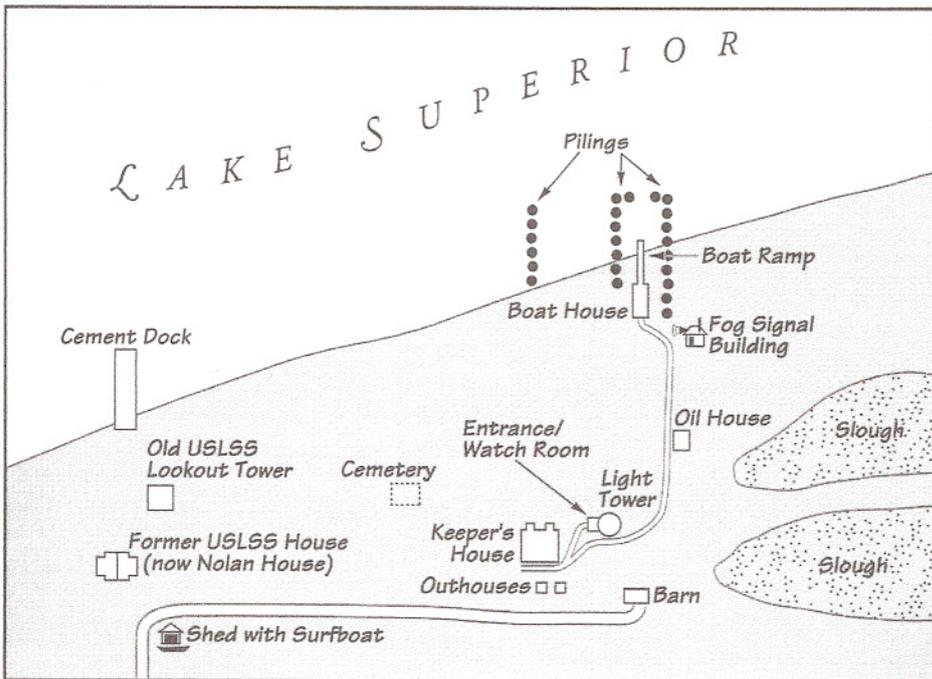




The Singleton family at the Two Harbor Light Station. Note the whistle fog signal, left of the chimney of the building at left. Small building is the oil house.



"All we saw was the lights," recalled Tom. "We never saw the boats. We could see the lights of the tug come up on the waves, then the barge would come up. But she wasn't making any headway. I went out—it was all gravel from the house to the water—and stuck two sticks in the line that we could see from the window, so we could see if she was making any headway. And she wasn't gaining. Pretty soon the tug lights came up and the barge lights were gone."

The crew of the *Crane*, five men, one woman, went down with vessel in 25 feet of water. Tom estimated the vessel was less than a quarter-mile offshore. After the storm, Tom's father went out with the two assistants in a rowboat. "All they found," says Tom, "was a big pine spar with some cable hanging on it."

With the help of a government construction crew working at Crisp Point, 17-year-old Singleton built a 24-foot fish tug. Built from local lumber, he named it *Laugh's Dream* after the government engineer who designed it. "They laid the keel out on the curved root of a spruce tree. The keel was made of four-by-eight-inch hardwood with a four-inch-wide steel keel plate. It was built to run over rocks and charge through 30-foot waves. "It was," said Singleton, "built to sail on Superior. God! We took some awful storms with her."

"Three times," he laughed, "we had to get off the lake and run her on the beach."

The last time he was fishing with his 6' 7" brother, Jack. "We was trollin' 12 miles out on a sand shoal when it really started to blow a gale from the northwest. We knew we'd have trouble ridin' it out, so we tried to go to Grand Marais. I was watchin' the stumps on the shore. [Most of the merchantable timber had been cut in the area; the forest was denuded.] The seas were getting heavy and we wasn't making any headway. I said to Jack, 'The hell with this, we'll beach her,' so we got on top of a wave and headed right for the Two Heart Station. Made sure the guy in the watchtower saw us. He came out and waved so we knew he saw us."

"When she hit bottom we dove overboard. With the next wave I grabbed an oar, put it under my arm cause you can swim good with an oar. Jack, he just dove in. Had to get away from the boat cause she'd swing sideways. The crew came down and