

VALLEY TALES

YMCA Explorers Club Ready To Probe Lakes From Bottom.

MEMBERS of the Saginaw YMCA Under Water Explorers Club, all of them skin-diving devotees, plan an interesting summer.

Headed by Don McLellan, their president, members intend to spend summer weekends probing the Great Lakes for shipwrecks. From the U.S. Corps of Engineers they've bought maps charting the lakes and their treasure trove of ships wrecked, some before the turn of the century.

The divers are interested especially in searching Thunder Bay in Lake Huron, off the Alpena shoreline, for wrecks because many are in comparatively shallow water. Depths of the wrecks—freighters and passenger liners—range from 20 to 200 feet, McLellan says.

"We don't figure to tackle anything as deep as 200 feet," he explained. "But we have the equipment and personnel to work in water 100 feet deep."

The club doesn't expect to uncover any Spanish doubloons or even the captain's payroll chest in any forgotten lake vessel. But members certainly will be richer for historical facts they'll learn in their search for Great Lakes shipwrecks.

Anyone who knows of a shipwreck (in recent or bygone years) in the Thunder Bay region would oblige the Saginaw skin divers by phoning McLellan at SW 2-6308 and telling him about it.