



Kickapoo, 1921

WAGL-56; ex-*Baldrige*

A Native American people formerly inhabiting southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, with small present-day populations in Kansas, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico.

Builder: Bethlehem Steel, Elizabethport, New Jersey

Commissioned: 1919 (commercial); 21 January 1922 (USCG)

Decommissioned: 24 August 1945

Disposition: Sold

Length: 157' 4"

Beam: 35'

Draft: 12'

Displacement: 840 tons

Propulsion: Triple-expansion steam engines; 2 Scotch-type boilers; 1,000 SHP; single propeller

Performance:

Max: 11.5 knots

Economic: 7.8 knots; 3,170 mile range

Deck Gear:

Complement: 38

Armament: 2 x 1-pounders

Electronics: SO-8 radar (1945)

History:

Kickapoo was the tug *Baldrige* that was transferred from the Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Corps on 31 October 1921 under Executive Order No. 3564. Her name was changed from *Baldrige* to *Kickapoo* on 9 November 1921. She was assigned to duty at Cape May, New Jersey. On 2 January 1925 she reported that she had rescued the entire crew and all passengers, 227 in all, of the American steamer *Mohawk* at Brandywine Shoals, Delaware, and landed all of them safely at Lewes, Delaware. The *Mohawk* was a total loss.

In 1926 *Kickapoo* was modified for light ice-breaking and her hull was widened by 8-1/2 feet. She was transferred to Rockland, Maine, where she served as an ice-breaker. She also saw service at Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. During World War II she was classified as a buoy tender and given the hull number and designation WAGL-56. She was assigned to Buzzards Bay where she continued to serve as an ice-breaker and also carried out general aids to navigation duties.

She was decommissioned on 24 August 1945 and was sold on 7 July 1945.

Sources:

Cutter History File. USCG Historian's Office, USCG HQ, Washington, D.C.

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Robert Scheina. *U.S. Coast Guard Cutters & Craft of World War II*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1982.

U.S. Coast Guard. *Record of Movements: Vessels of the United States Coast Guard: 1790 - December 31, 1933*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1934; 1989 (reprint).

