

**ANNUAL
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ISSUE**

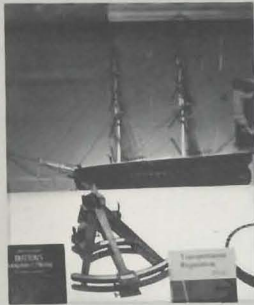


The
LOOKOUT

MAY 1980

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Purpose



From its earliest days as a floating chapel to its present function as the world's largest and most comprehensive center for seafarers, the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey has been dedicated to the well being and special needs of merchant mariners of all nations entering the Port of New York and New Jersey.

The Institute operates 24 hours a day throughout the year and from its headquarters in Lower Manhattan and its Mariners' International Center in Port Newark/Port Elizabeth, N.J. reaches the 300,000 men and women who annually make port in New Jersey, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan.

Its diversified services include an Ecumenical Port Ministry program, ship visitors, a seafarers assistance network, opportunities for maritime education, alcoholism counseling and referral, lodging, eating and recreational facilities, cultural and community programs.

A voluntary agency of the Episcopal Church, the Institute has traditionally served active merchant seafarers of all faiths. Although 76% of its current operating budget is earned from its revenue producing services, it is dependent on grants, corporate and personal contributions to maintain its non-income producing services and programs for seamen. All gifts are tax-deductible.



Vol. 71 No. 3 • MAY 1980 □ Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey □ 15 State Street, New York, N.Y. 10004 / Telephone: (212) 269-2710 □ The Right Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., S.T.D., D.D., *Honorary President* / Anthony D. Marshall, *President* / The Rev. James R. Whittemore, *Director* / Carlyle Windley, *Editor* □ Published bi-monthly with exception of May and December when monthly. Contributions to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey of \$5.00 or more include a year's subscription to *The Lookout*. Single copies 50¢. Additional postage for Canada, Latin America, Spain, \$1.00; other foreign, \$3.00. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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The 146th Annual Report of the Director to the Board of Managers of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey



The Rev. James R. Whittemore
Institute Director

Some three years ago in April 1977 at the time of my institution as Director of the Institute, I made a report to the Board of Managers and to the visitors assembled. I said rather bluntly that we were in critical financial shape and that the future of the Institute was in question. Secretly within myself, I wondered if the Institute had outworn its usefulness; whether, indeed, my task was to orchestrate the orderly dissolution of the world's largest and most honored seafarers' society.

Surely the financial picture was grim. Our 1976 deficit was \$677,000 and the projected deficit for 1977 was \$809,000. With less than five million dollars remaining in our endowment and with a pattern of rising deficits, 1981 seemed to be when the final bell would be tolled. Unless...

...unless we rediscovered a sense of our mission--our "raison d'etre."

...unless we reorganized and brought together an efficient and enthusiastic staff.

...unless we developed new sources of income and support.

Well, my heart is warm and full today — for the prospects for the future are no longer so uncertain.

I am grateful to John Winslow, our retiring President and the other officers, and all of you as Board Managers for your guidance and support. John's leadership, in particular, has been a great source of strength. His wise counsel, his optimism, his good humor, his friendship, are things which have meant much to me personally and to the Institute. We need to formally recognize this at an appropriate occasion.

Secondly, I want to thank the staff of the Institute. We have been able to assemble an extraordinarily skilled, dedicated group of leaders. Some of them are here today, Frank Huntington, Sarah Peveler, Mary B. Rice, Bill Haynsworth. It is people like this who have made the difference.

And what a difference there is. We are now quite certain of our task — we know that we have a unique and critically important mission to the seafarers who come here, to the maritime industry of the world and to the health and well being of this port city.

We are operating an increasingly effective and fiscally responsible institution. Our deficits have been reduced from \$677,000 in 1976 to \$263,000 in 1979 and our projected deficit is \$90,000 for 1980 (if all goes well in these uncertain times.)

Our endowment for the first time in many years is increasing which is cause for rejoicing. At the same time our budget has grown in three years from about three million dollars to nearly four million dollars.

Most importantly we have strengthened and improved our services to seafarers, for this is our prime business. Our Ecumenical Port Ministry is now well established with nearly 90% of the 7300 ships coming

"we know that we have a unique and critically important mission to the seafarers who come here, to the maritime industry of the world and to the health and well being of this port city."



Aerial view of Port Newark/ Port Elizabeth, N.J., the world's largest container port.

into this port being visited - which means that we are reaching over a quarter of a million seafarers annually. Our two schools are stronger and our social and pastoral services have been augmented with the addition of Chaplain Victoria Sanborn as director of a new alcoholism program.

There is only one remaining important piece of our initial "survival agenda," (if I may call it that), that needs to be completed before we can be certain that the future is assured. This involves each and every one of you. We must complete the task of matching the magnificent Astor Challenge Grant of one million dollars and raising our annual giving to the \$300,000 a year level. Allen Schumacher, our indefatigable Development Chairman, will tell you about our plans and your part in them.

Coupled with our development and support efforts is the necessity, as I see it, and I believe you concur, to convince the Port Authority and the municipalities of this great port that they have a mutual responsibility with us for seafarers' welfare. In my judgement, it is no longer morally responsible nor acceptable in this port or any other port to expect voluntary agencies and societies to bear the total financial burden for the care of the men and women who bring the wealth of the nations to our doorsteps.

One final note for this coming year. There is a need, it seems to me, to set up a small Planning Committee for the future; our 150th Anniversary is only four years away. Such a Committee should begin to sort out new avenues of mission and service for the Institute. I have a number of ideas. They relate around stress-at-sea, human factors in the maritime industry, how to bring some help and health to a troubled industry and port, etc. At any rate, the time has come to once again take up the mantle of creative leadership as we have done so often in our notable history.

I can feel the water beginning to move alongside the hull. We are underway, the wind and the current are with us. We have a new President whose mind and spirit is sensitive to the wise leadership of the past yet open to the new courses upon which we must venture.

The future looks bright. With God's help and the help of all of you, we can move with confidence into this new decade and look forward to celebrating with joy, the 150th Anniversary of our founding.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Whittemore

The Rev. James R. Whittemore, Director

February 7, 1980

**The Seamen's Church Institute
of New York and New Jersey
Income and Expense Statement 1979**

By Program Areas

	1979			1978	
	INCOME	EXPENSE	NET	NET	
Program Areas*					
Education	\$ 275,383	\$ 437,592	(\$162,209)	(\$170,440)	
Hotel, Food Service, Seamen's Club	2,236,647	2,305,267	(68,620)	(380,370)	
Pastoral & Social Services	127,512	248,569	(121,057)	(198,900)	
Ecumenical Port Ministry	663	183,261	(182,598)	(58,500)	
Mariners' International Center	155,654	292,514	(136,860)	(164,550)	
Program Deficit			(\$671,344)	(\$972,760)	
Non Program Areas*					
Fund-Raising/Grants/Contributions					
Total Raised	\$302,055				
Specifically Designated for Program Areas Above	23,905	\$279,150	\$120,597	\$157,553	\$219,960
Endowment Income					
Total	\$297,515				
Specifically Designated for Program Areas Above	47,930	\$249,585	8,744	240,841	219,590
Properties		87,194	77,171	10,023	(26,140)
Non-Program Surplus				408,417	413,410
	\$3,410,788	\$3,673,715			
Total Operating Deficit			(\$262,927)	(\$559,350)	

() Denotes Loss

* Program and non-program expenses include allocations for building, maintenance and general administration costs.

The Condensed Statement of Operating Income and Expense for the year 1979 derived from the books and records is set forth above. Audited financial statements are available at the Institute for inspection upon completion.

Respectfully,
Henry C.B. Lindh, Vice President - Treasurer

**1979
SOURCES OF INCOME**

**OPERATING BUDGET
\$3,673,715**

Earned Income	76.6%
Endowment Income	8.1%
Contributions/Grants	8.2%
Deficit	7.1%

GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS/1979

DIRECT MAIL	\$ 42,272
MARITIME FRIENDS	54,325
CHRISTMAS-AT-SEA	19,105
PARISH ASSOCIATES	5,260
FOUNDATIONS	33,514
GRANTS	123,631
MEMORIALS	11,353
GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS	12,595
	<u>\$302,055</u>

**The Seamen's Church Institute
of New York and New Jersey
gratefully acknowledges
the memorials and legacies left in its support
during 1979
honoring the following persons**

Memorials

Paul Bennett Albertis	Maude A. Glover	Mr. Panepinto
Amy G. Allen	Rosa Goldstein	Sylvester E. Rothchild
Mr. John H. Allen	Anne C. Hazard	Alexandra Sanford
Dorothy Blackely	Charles Dulney Henley	Virginia Schmidt
George H. Blohm	Mrs. Jean Hopper	David Severn
Capt. Louis Caputo	Como. Richard M. Hughes	William Drew Snediker
Lucille Carhart	C.W. Jagger	Capt. Max R. Stirn
Stephen G. Carse	Bartlett Braxton Jones	Samuel Stretch
Rowena Kidd Dahlquist	Mrs. Leland Jordan	Mrs. Jean Sundberg
I.B. Dick	Capt. Thomas L. Lewis	Benjamin H. Trask
Mrs. Edward Jordan	Martha Jane McClatchey	Pearl Wedebrack
(Constance) Dimock	Charles H. Marshall, Sr.	Dr. Charles R. Weeth
Alf Ebbesen	Mrs. Harry B. Mitchell	Stanley Wilson
Olive Barrett Erickson	Mr. Charles Olson	Prof. Wang Chi-Yuan

Legacies

Irene Hance	Anna M. Pfriemer
Helen L. Holdredge	Pauline Rahe
Dr. Louisa Mecolino	Harriet C. Weed
Eleanore H. Menzel	

**The Seamen's Church Institute
of New York and New Jersey
Board of Managers**

Members

Blair F. Baldwin
Edward J. Barber
George D. Benjamin
Richard S. Berry
E. Virgil Conway
Robert E. Corbin
F. Briggs Dalzell
Anthony D. Duke, Jr.
Gordon Fearey
Seth B. French, Jr.
John T. Gilbride
Thomas W. Gleason
Edward J. Heine, Jr.
Leonard D. Henry
John C. Jansing
Niels W. Johnsen
Stephen S. Lash
Captain Robert J. Lowen
Caroline M. Macomber
Thomas L. McLane
Clifford D. Mallory, Jr.
Monroe Maltby (Honorary)
Clarence F. Michalis
John A. Morris
John P. Nicholson
Clifford B. O'Hara
Hugh E. Paine, Jr.
Maxwell M. Rabb
Robert A. Robinson
Charles E. Saltzman
John Jay Schieffelin (Honorary)
Allen E. Schumacher
Edward J. Sette
W. Stevens Sheppard
William J. Shields
Charles G. Thompson
Chee Chen Tung
Alexander O. Vietor
Franklin E. Vilas
John G. Winslow
Clifford R. Wise

Honorary President

The Rt. Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., S.T.D., D.D.

President

The Hon. Anthony D. Marshall

Senior Vice President

Alfred Lee Loomis, III

Clerical Vice Presidents

The Rev. Frederick Burgess (Honorary)
The Rev. Robert C. Chapman
The Rev. John M. Mulligan, D.D.
The Rev. Robert Ray Parks, D.D.
The Rev. James R. Whittemore

Lay Vice Presidents

Arthur Z. Gray
Ralph K. Smith, Jr.
R. Thornton Wilson, Jr.

*Lay Vice President
& Treasurer*

Henry C.B. Lindh

Secretary

Kenneth H. Volk

Administrative Staff

Officers

The Rev. James R. Whittemore
Executive Director

The Rev. Francis C. Huntington
Deputy Director

Divisions

Education

The Rev. Francis C. Huntington
Educational Director

Merchant Marine School

Dee N. Fitch, *Director*

Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute of Maritime Studies

Faye Argentine, *Director*

Joseph Conrad Library

Robert Wolk, *Librarian*

Gymnasium

Danny Browne, *Director*

Hotels, Clubs & Conferences

Hotel Administration

Charles Byrant, *General Manager*
Gary Sitarski, *Assistant Manager*
Paul Chapman, *Conference Director*

Security

Erwin Schmidt, *Director*

Hotel Desk

Antonio Manuud, *Supervisor*
Dalma Humphrey, *Night Supervisor*

Housekeeping

Thelma Blackwood, *Supervisor*
Ariel Marsh, *Supervisor*

Food Services

Karen Ross, *Manager*

Mariners' International Club

Jeffrey Hunt, *Manager*

Pastoral & Social Services

The Rev. William Haynsworth, *Director*

The Rev. William Robinson, *Chaplain*
U.S. Public Health Service Hospital

The Rev. Victoria Sanborn,
Director of Alcoholism Services

Barbara Clauson, *Social Services*

Ecumenical Port Ministry

Paul Chapman, *Director*

Ship Visitors

The Rev. George Dawson, Sr.
Frederick Edward
Gilbert Rodriguez
Peter Tammens
Joe Fiore, driver

Mariners' International Center - Port Newark

Rocco LiCalsi, *Manager*

Support Services

Accounting

George Hartstein, *Controller*
Vera Rudzwick, *Assistant*

Buildings and Properties

Allen T. Sorensen, *Director*
Vernon Anderson, *Chief Engineer*

Communications

Carlyle Windley, *Director*

Personnel

Sarah Peveler, *Director*

Volunteers/Christmas-at-Sea

Sylvia Camp, *Director*

Development

Mary B. Rice, *Director*
Zelda Mueller, *Associate Director*
Scott Charles, *Associate Director*

Development Report

PROGRESS & GOALS

MARY B. RICE

Director of Development



Help with forms and documents, visits with seamen in the hospital and a well stocked library for study and leisure reading are but a few of the personal services provided seafarers by the Institute.

Since its founding in 1834, the primary goal of the Seamen's Church Institute has been to ensure that no active seamen of any race, faith, nationality or condition need ever be "a stranger within the gates" of this great port city. In its long history, the Institute has asked only for modest support to carry out this mission, relying primarily on its own resources.

Today, higher costs and increasing program needs have challenged the Institute's financial resources, as they have almost every non-profit organization. In 1978, the Institute recognized that in order to continue to provide its diversified services for seamen, it must significantly expand its fund raising efforts, as well as increase revenue-producing services (income from hotel, restaurant, conferences) and restore endowment funds, reduced in recent years through capital outlays.

1980 Goal An intensified program to increase annual giving from \$175,000 in 1978 to \$300,000 in 1980 is well underway. Activities include a broader direct mail appeal to individuals, increased solicitation of foundations for annual support, higher levels of giving from present donors in the maritime industry, solicitation of those not contributing at present, and for the first time, a concentrated effort to reach the larger business community.

The Institute has also initiated a number of changes that are increasing income from its revenue-producing services. In 1976, 60% of operating expenses came from these sources. In 1980, the Institute projects that these services will provide 78% of its operating costs. Over the same period, 1976-1979, the deficit has been reduced from 21% to 7% of operating expenses and is projected at 2% in 1980.

Endowment Support The good news for endowment is that in January 1979 the Vincent Astor Foundation awarded the Seamen's Church Institute a \$1 million endowment challenge grant, providing an opportunity to add \$2 million to endowment funds by raising the matching \$1 million by December 31, 1980. A special gifts campaign soliciting individuals, corporations, and foundations raised \$402,649 of that goal during 1979. This generous grant is a vital affirmation of the Institute's programs and services for the active seafarer.

Looking Ahead To obtain its financial objectives and to insure a promising future, the Institute must continue to appeal to the broad spectrum of both public and private sources for support as well as to utilize its own facilities productively. It does so proud of its record of service, committed to its mission to today's seafarers, and confident that those who understand the importance of its work will contribute generously to the special needs of seafarers.

Ship visiting Ecumenical Port Ministry, Mariners' International Center



In 1979 approximately 7,300 vessels from 62 nations arrived in the Port of New York and New Jersey. Ship Visitors called one or more times on more than 80% of them thanks to the increased effectiveness of the newly formed ecumenical ship visiting program coordinated by the Institute. This program utilizes radio communications and a minibus system to dispatch ship visitors and Port Chaplains to vessels throughout the 750 miles of waterfront and to expedite seafarers assistance efforts.

The program is a part of the equally new Ecumenical Port Ministry initiated by the Institute. In New Jersey, it operates out of the Institute's Mariners' International Center.

The following article which appeared in the Newark STAR-LEDGER, November 9, 1979 gives some idea of the importance of the Center and the work of the Ecumenical Port Ministry at Port Newark/Port Elizabeth.



Paul Chapman makes an early morning call to a vessel newly arrived in Pt. Newark. □ A late afternoon emergency visit by trouble shooting Chaplain George Dawson is routine in his work. □ At 15 State Street, foreign language books and magazines are prepared for delivery aboard ship. □ In Brooklyn, ship visitor, Gilbert Rodriguez promises to call seaman Raul Legoretta's family in Mexico City.

Center ministers, counsels and offers recreation to sailors of all creeds

A Spiritual Port of Call for Seamen

By Monica Maske, Religion Editor
Newark STAR-LEDGER

The young daughter of the captain of a cargo ship docked at Port Newark had died while he was at sea and the bereaved father wanted to speak to a clergyman.

On another ship, three copies of the Book of Common Prayer were requested by Anglican seamen. A Catholic sailor arriving at the port asked for a Mass card. A Moslem seaman wanted a copy of the Koran.

These are some of the spiritual needs met by the Mariners' International Center, a nonprofit, multid denominational seamen's club servicing thousands of seamen and land-based employees at Port Newark and Elizabeth.

The center also provides multilingual assistance in placing overseas phone calls to families of seamen, alcoholism counseling and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, and "troubleshooting" on behalf of the poorly treated and low paid seamen sailing under some foreign flags.

The clergymen at the center describe their work as "saving lives."

It is an effort — taking place at the largest container port in the world — that is little known by those not directly involved.

"What the people of New Jersey fail to recognize is that we are number one in something. We're number one in shipping," said the Rev. George Dawson, the Episcopal chaplain at the center.

"One-fourth of all the jobs in the

Evenings, seamen are brought by Institute vans to the Mariners' International Center □ Some relax over a game of billiards or join in a lively soccer match. □ Others may attend a religious service or just rest and enjoy an "American snack" as is this Indian officer and his family.

entire New York — New Jersey metropolitan area are utterly dependent upon shipping at the port. If it weren't for the port, many people wouldn't have jobs.

"This is the most penetrating answer I can give," he said, "to the question about why anyone should care about our work."

The center is under the sponsorship of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey, which has its headquarters in lower Manhattan, the hub of most shipping activities 130 years ago when the Institute was established.

The Rev. Francis C. Huntington, deputy director of the Seamen's Church Institute, described the organization as "one of New York City's real old-line charities.

"In modern times, we've had to restructure but the work is as important as ever and support is slow in coming. The work is important because the greater New York City area is still a port and there are close to 300,000 seamen coming into port every year."

He said 80 per cent of the seamen are foreigners and three-fourths of them are from "developing countries, are low paid and lead marginal existences."

Most seamen, Huntington said, "come in on a modern container ship which can unload and load in a day so they don't have much time ashore. For their own



well-being — because their jobs are boring — when they come ashore they need a place to recreate, relax and perhaps buy something essential in our shop. If we can arrange a soccer match, call their family or mail a letter, these are big plusses for them.

"Without the Mariners' Center at the port," he added. "Newark would be an inhospitable place for seamen."

The center has a modern, two-story structure ringed with floor-to-ceiling windows at the corner of Export and Calcutta Streets in Port Newark.

The building contains a chapel, television and movie room, an Army PX-type shop, and a coffee shop. Out back is a soccer field complete with lights for night games.

The significance of one feature of the center is not immediately apparent until pointed out — the telephone used to make overseas calls.

"You might think a phone call is a simple matter," said Edward Sharkey, a lay member of the Catholic Apostleship of the Sea program at the center. "But it's not when you're trying to call a little village in Argentina."

There is a rack filled with pamphlets on alcoholism.

"The statistics are that 8 to 10 per cent of the seamen are alcoholics," said Carmine Guastella, associate director of

the alcoholism program run by the National Maritime Union of America at the Port of New York, Newark and Elizabeth. Other unions and organizations also offer alcoholism counseling programs at the ports.

The seaman with a drinking problem, Guastella said, comes to the Mariners' Center "for understanding."

Chaplain Dawson, a former pastor in Waldwick, was appointed to work at the center by the retired Episcopal Bishop of Newark, George E. Rath.

Newark Archbishop Peter L. Gerety appointed three Catholic priests — Rev. Salvatore T. Malanga, Rev. Charles H. McTague and Rev. Zygmunt M. Pikula — to minister not only to seamen but to employees and travelers at Newark International Airport in a "Ministry to People on the Move."

In addition to his ship-visiting responsibilities, Dawson is also "labor troubleshooter" on foreign ships. The job is necessary, he said, because of the "tendency for seamen from Third World nations to be exploited."

"We're serving people without any strings attached," he said. "Then why are we doing this? So we can stand on our own two feet and give a decent response to the faith that is in us."

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Maritime Education

SCI Merchant Marine School

Roosevelt Institute of Maritime Studies

By day ... The Seafarer

Weekdays from early morning to late afternoon, the classrooms and offices of the Merchant Marine School run non-stop. Lectures, practicals, tutorials and counseling sessions all take place simultaneously. Intrusions, though occasionally tolerated, are certainly not welcomed. There is too much to be done.

And no wonder. Last year, 572 seafarers enrolled for numerous courses in navigation, seamanship and marine engineering. These mariners came to the Institute because they knew that its school is among the few and best of the independent merchant marine schools which takes men and women from the ranks and prepares them for either original licensing as deck or engine officers or for advanced grades if they are already officers.

In addition, the students, as active seafarers, want to complete their classwork quickly as possible and return to sea. The highly individualized instruction provided allows for this but it is a real challenge for both the students and the small, dedicated faculty which under the leadership of the school's director Commander Dee N. Fitch, runs a tight but genial ship.

But drop by the school just after classes and you'll find many of the students staying to discuss the day's work and to team up to tackle the next day's assignments. Typically, the group is a mixture of black, hispanic and white; varying in age from early twenties to past middle age. Accents range from Southern drawl and Yankee twang to New York-ese and Great Lake "a's." To the untutored ear, the voice with the vaguely West Indian accent is most likely that of a student from Ghana.

Although the conversation is relaxed and filled with joviality, it is readily apparent that the group's motivation is high. These students want their officers' tickets and are willing to work hard for them. Granted, individual learning ability varies but the group's "Can Do" attitude and mutual support encourages each seafarer to do his best.

When it's time to sit for the licensing exams, most students pass. For those who don't it was still time well spent and with a little more work they'll most likely make it. As one young seaman philosophically put it, "Even if I don't make Third Mate, I'm certainly going to be the smartest damn A.B. afloat."

The Institute is committed to maritime education because it is convinced that well trained officers and crew make for high morale and a safer ship. It also believes that those seafarers unable to attend the academies or union schools but who are motivated to advance in their occupation should have the opportunity to do so. Furthermore, training and upgrading benefits both the seafarer and the maritime industry in which he serves.

By night ... Shorebased Personnel

Just as the Merchant Marine School provides practical training and skills for the merchant seaman, so does the Franklin D. Roosevelt Institute of Maritime Studies train shorebased maritime personnel.

Named for President Roosevelt who was a member of the SCI Board from 1908 until his death, the school was started in 1973 as an evening educational facility for working men and women who wished to advance their knowledge of the maritime transportation industry and the many specialized fields within it. It has always been taught by an expert faculty of industry professionals and is highly regarded by corporate maritime management. Many companies make the Institute's six course certificate program a required part of their management training. This takes approximately two years of evening study. 450 students were enrolled in classes in 1979.

In 1979, the Roosevelt Institute also began a series of maritime transportation seminars in conjunction with United States Navigation, Inc. and with Intermodal Transportation Services (ITS). Each seminar dealt in detail with a topic of vital current interest to the maritime industry, and more than 250 people attended these special all day forums.

In order to systematically plan for the future, the Roosevelt Institute retained during the past year the services of Mr. William L. Hamm - admiralty lawyer, recent steamship conference chairman and educator. His 1980 study and recommendations will help guide the development of the Roosevelt Institute as it continues to meet the challenging but changing needs of the maritime industry.



Courses ranging from Terminal Operations to proper handling of Hazardous Materials help students at the Roosevelt Institute acquire the state-of-the-art skills they need to insure that landbased maritime operations keep "the goods on the move."



Classroom practicals, hands-on training and the use of various visual aids help MMS students understand and retain the vast amount of material they must master for their licensing exams.



Volunteers Transition

1979 was a year of constant change for the Department of Volunteers — new organization, new hours, new program. Most things worked, some didn't. But with the supervision of the director of volunteers, Sylvia Camp, transitions were made smoothly and new projects gotten underway. More importantly, the volunteers were always there, ready and willing whatever the need.

Knitters throughout the nation continued to make the Christmas-at-Sea program a notable success. By the end of the year the department was open full time again and had assumed responsibility for all volunteers at the Institute: the Information Desk, the Library, the Secretarial and Office Support Services, the International Club and the Christmas Room. Plans were underway to re-open the Gift Shop and numerous other programs were being planned.

Certainly the Institute knows the importance of and appreciates the work of volunteers. In fact, it can't do without them. The following feature article from the November 24, 1979 New York Daily News bears out this point.

Volunteers of all ages work throughout the year to insure that thousands of gift boxes will be aboard ship for seafarers at sea on Christmas day.



Bedeck Sailors At Sea for Yule

Volunteer elves wrap and send gifts aboard for the lonely seamen to open at Christmas

By Don Weinbrenner
N.Y. DAILY NEWS

Nowhere on Earth does Christmas more gloomily insolate a man than on a vast and darkened ocean. It happens to thousands of sailors away from home who must stand watch beneath a crowd of silent, twinkling stars.

However, for many who return to their fo'c'sles there'll be a package, lovingly gift-wrapped and stuffed with handmade scarves and socks and other goodies assembled by more elves than Santa Claus has.

And some of these elves will have a difficult time concealing the goodies from the unsuspecting recipients, as long before Christmas thousands of gift boxes are sneaked aboard hundreds of vessels tied up along the metropolitan area's 750 miles of waterfront. They are stowed secretly till Christmas when the ship will be on the high seas, far from landbound festivities.

The elves are the women and men who volunteer year round for "Christmas-at-Sea." The ladies knit and sew — one has just completed her one-thousandth pair of socks over the past few years — and the men gift wrap, package and deliver from the sailor's true North Pole, the Seamen's Church Institute, 15 State Street, Manhattan.

Started in 1938

The project was begun in 1938 by the Institute. This year, 16,000 hand-knitted garments will be given away; socks, watch (stocking) caps, sleeveless sweaters and scarves made by 3,000 knitters across the country who work all year for the secret November stowaway.

"I was a recipient more than once," said volunteer and second mate Jim Lorier, as he stuffed gift packages into cartons to be later transported to ships in port. "When it's Christmas aboard a ship, light years from home and loved ones, that package is quite a surprise."



Other volunteers help throughout the Institute. Here Marjorie Vitucci and Bill Rowan greet Institute friends at the lobby Information Desk.

"Once those packages are ripped open we come out of our silent brooding and get to talkin' up a storm of feelings long stowed while at sea. It's our time to start making friends."

"We're all just a bunch of kids" he said, taping the seam of the top flaps and chucking that carton atop a pile of others as he slowed to a whisper. "They get misty-eyed, you know what I mean. They mope back to the privacy of their fo'c'sle and if they do what I do, they look down to reexamine the gifts in their laps and season them with a few salty tears. You gotta think real deep down to appreciate that people whom we never met would sneak aboard such a nice surprise."

Gifts brought aboard

Marcos Lucchesi, chief officer of the Venezuelan Line ship, *Trujillo*, docked at Pier 1, Brooklyn, welcomed aboard a "News" team and ship visitors Gilbert Rodriguez and Fred Edward, their arms laden with the unmarked Christmas cartons. Only the grinning ship's officers

knew of their arrival as the boxes were lugged past seamen busily painting the hull with long poles, brought up the gangway, and immediately sequestered in a locked compartment.

The final delivery of the day was to the *Conchita P. Pelayo*, a squid fishing boat skippered by smiling Jose Dominguez Rodriguez. In Spanish, he told Marcos that their ship would be crossing the Sargasso Sea enroute to his native Spain on Christmas Day. "Gracias" could be heard from Rodriguez and his waving navigator even as the Institute and News cars moved away from the deck.

At the Institute the work was nonstop. "We have one volunteer in Pennsylvania, Mrs. George Eichelberger," said Sylvia Camp, project director, "she knitted 160 scarves last year. Where did she find the time? She carries her knitting wherever she goes, whether it's to church, the supermarket, bingo or the movies. To the curious she proudly declares that she's keeping seamen warm all over the world. She's raised a few eyebrows with that one."

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Community Services

Helping one another



Conferencing, the Mariner 15 Restaurant, maritime exhibits and the new Visitors Center are but a few of the ways that the Institute encourages others to utilize its facilities and learn more about its vital work with seafarers.

Because of the limited amount of good conferencing space in Manhattan, the Institute is encouraging qualified non-profit organizations and maritime related associations to use its facilities.

During the past year some 100 groups ranging from the National Council of Churches to the Port of New York Maritime Association found it a comfortable and convenient location for workshops, seminars and conferences. The Institute, in providing this service, adds to its earned income and has the opportunity to introduce new groups to its work with seafarers.

Food service is also an important source of earned income because the public as well as seamen has traditionally utilized its dining facilities for lunch and dinner. To generate additional business the Mariner 15 restaurant was partially remodelled during the past year and its menus and service improved.

Banqueting capability was also expanded due largely to the increased demand for group lunches and dinners by conferencing groups and the business community.

In the Fall of 1979, the Institute opened a Visitors Center. Here the history of the Institute, from its founding in 1834 up through its current programs, is shown through documents, photographs, maritime art, artifacts, and seamen's crafts.

Made possible in part by a grant from the Seamen's Bank for Savings, the Visitors Center will offer a changing series of maritime exhibitions selected from the Institute's collection of ship models and maritime art and will add significantly to the cultural life of the Lower Manhattan community.



Wills/Bequests

telephone: (212) 269-2710

Over the years, the concern and generosity of many dedicated friends has helped insure that the work of the Institute will go forward.

We ask you to remember the Institute in your will, so that it may continue to carry on its work for seafarers of all nations. Rarely, will a gift benefit so many.

While it is advisable to consult your lawyer as to the drawing of your will, we submit the following as a clause that may be used:

"I give and bequeath to Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey, a corporation of the State of New York located at 15 State Street, New York, New York, the sum of _____ dollars."

Note that the words "of New York and New Jersey" are a part of our title. If land or any specific property such as bonds, stock, etc., is given, a brief description of the property should be inserted instead of the words, "the sum of _____ dollars."

In addition, the Institute has a number of other ways for philanthropic giving, all having unique donor advantages. Complete information is available on request and all inquiries should be directed to The Rev. James R. Whittemore, Director, SCI, 15 State Street, New York, New York 10004.



To all who help us help those who spend their lives at toil upon the sea, we thank you and hope that blue skies and fair winds will always be yours in the days ahead.

The Board of Managers and Staff
of Seamen's Church Institute.



Seamen's Church Institute of N.Y. and N.J.

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