

T-H 15 July 1960

SOLANO IN LEGISLATURE

Academy Project To Start Soon

By **STATE SENATOR
LUTHER E. GIBSON**

Work is about to be started on a new \$800,000 engineering instruction building at the California Maritime Academy—the unit of the state college system which is located in Vallejo. The principal construction contract has just been let with contracts for site preparation and equipment expected very shortly.

When this structure is completed, the complete facilities of this important institution will be housed in new, modern, post-war buildings. The value of the physical plant will exceed \$3,500,000. Most of this has been obtained since the serious 1950 threat to the closing of the Academy was beaten decisively in the Legislature.

I have always been very much interested in this local college since the days in which I was active on the committee to secure the relocation of the institution in Solano County from its former site in Marin. Subsequent to that, Governor Earl Warren appointed me to serve on the Board of Governors (a post which I held for 12 years.)

About 230 students will be enrolled in the current academic year with an expansion to 250 students in the next year or two. There are 73 employees.

UNDER DISCIPLINE

The students who all live on the campus under discipline which is similar in many respects to that at the Naval, Army and Air Force Academies, come from all over California and a few from out of state. They are working for a bachelor of science degree and graduates also are licensed as third officers in the merchant marine. They may specialize either as deck officers or marine engineers.

The course is three years in length but each year is longer than the normal academic term. Three months of the school year annually is spent on an ocean cruise in which the midshipmen operate the Training Ship Golden Bear—a vessel on loan from the U.S. Maritime Commission. This year's cruise will be to the mid-Pacific islands.

ANNUAL BUDGET

The Federal government makes a substantial contribution to the institution's annual budget and makes a payment of \$200 annually

to each student for such items as books and uniforms. The student is required to pay the school \$600 annually, the principal portion of which goes for his board and room. The balance of the costs are paid from the state education budget.

Permanent facilities now in existence at the academy include a classroom building, administration building, residence hall, dining room and kitchens, gymnasium and swimming pool, ship maintenance building and quarters for senior members of the staff. Outdoor physical education facilities will be further improved this year with a \$45,000 appropriation made by the Legislature this Spring.

The Academy, a familiar sight to most Solanoans who travel the Carquinez Bridge, is an excellent college unit for young men and one of which we have every reason to be proud.



SEN. GIBSON

Vallejo

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