



Maritime School

The 70-acre campus of the California Maritime Academy at Morrow Cove is pictured in the upper photo with the training ship, Golden Bear, in the foreground, and the officers' quarters on the knoll, center. Right, Academy road in front of Midshipmen Barracks is tree-lined and shady. Immediately above, Commo. Russell M. Ihrig USN, ret., Academy superintendent.



Morrow Cove Academy Site

A rolling 70-acre campus at Morrow Cove south of Vallejo on the shores of Carquinez Straits is the home of the California Maritime Academy, one of only four such schools in the nation, established to train young men for careers in the Merchant Marine. Similar maritime academies are maintained by Maine, Massachusetts and New York, all operated in cooperation with the Federal government, and each independent from the other.

The California Maritime Academy was established in 1929 by act of the California Legislature as a unit of the state educational system, coming directly under the State Department of Education.

The governing body is the Board of Governors, consisting of five members, of which the State Director of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction is an ex officio member. Members are appointed by the Governor and include Ralph Sweeney, chairman; State Senator Luther E. Gibson, J. Burton Vasche, Capt. Henry Blackstone and Hugh Gallagher.

Superintendent of the Academy since 1947 is Commodore Russell M. Ihrig, USN, ret., who was selected and appointed by the Board of Governors with the approval of the State Department of Education, the Federal Maritime Administration and the U. S. Navy Department.

An Annapolis graduate, Commodore Ihrig served in high staff positions under Admiral Yarnell during the Sino-Japanese hostilities, and under Admiral Chester Nimitz both in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and on his Pacific staff during World War II as logistics planner. The academy superintendent also had valuable educational experience as an officer in the executive department at the U. S. Naval Academy, instructor at Line Officers' Post Graduate School, and associate professor of Naval Science and Tactics for two years at the University of California.

The Academy is authorized by the State Legislature to grant the degree of Bachelor of Science in Nautical Science. Graduates complete 149 units of academic work during a three-year course, in-

cluding three annual training cruises of approximately ten weeks each on the training ship Golden Bear.

Students, who enter only in September, are appointed midshipmen in the Merchant Marine Reserve of the U. S. Navy Reserve, and are subsisted free, receiving \$65 per month from the Federal Government, provided they pass a rigid Navy physical examination.

In addition to the Bachelor of Science degree, graduates receive licenses from the U. S. Coast Guard as third mates for engineers for engineering service in the merchant marine; they receive commissions from the Navy as ensigns in the Naval Reserve, and commissions from the Federal Maritime Administration as ensigns in the U. S. Maritime Service.

The training ship Golden Bear, on which the entire Corps of Midshipmen cruises each year, is officered by the professional maritime faculty of the academy, with Capt. Ralph M. G. Swany, head of the school's department of Navigation and Seamanship, as commanding officer. Captain Swany was a member of the first graduating class of 1933 of the old California Nautical Schoolship, and is a commander in the Naval Reserve.

The students themselves form the operating and maintenance crew of the Golden Bear as a fundamental part of their training. The 7,040-ton vessel is the former Mellena, designed and built during the last war. The vessel served in the later campaigns in the Pacific, and also transported Chinese nationalist troops from South China to North China to fight the Communists. The Golden Bear is now the property of the Federal Maritime Administration and is on loan without charge to the State of



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California. The Federal Government pays for the annual overhaul, repairs and drydocking, while the States pays for operation.

In recent years, the midshipmen have cruised on the Golden Bear to France, Italy, Greece, Algiers, Gibraltar, Funchal, Curacao, Trinidad, St. Thomas, Houston, New Orleans, the Panama Canal, Chile, Peru, Guatemala, West Coast Mexican ports and the Hawaiian Islands.

Directing the academy's curriculum is Capt. Carroll T. Bonney, USN, ret., dean of instruction. Captain Bonney is an Annapolis graduate with two years as professor of Naval Science and Tactics at Yale, four years as professor of the same subjects at Harvard, and a Master's degree in Education from Stanford University.

Commandant of midshipmen is Richard D. Heron, a graduate of the academy and a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve with service in North Africa and Italy during World War II.

Comdr. Frank Flanner, chief engineer of the Golden Bear and head of the department of Engineering, is also a graduate of the academy and a commander in the Naval Reserve. With few exceptions, all other members of the faculty are graduates of the academy and most hold commissions in the Naval Reserve.

VHA Now Reducing Holdings

Large-scale real estate transactions are becoming just as routine to the Vallejo Housing Authority as its former vast placement, operation and maintenance program housing thousands of vital defense workers in World War II and the Korean War.

Now gradually dwindling in size, the VHA is disposing of buildings and land when they are no longer needed, James D. Richardson, executive director, explained.

At its peak operation during World War II, the VHA maintained 13,500 units in its nine projects. Today there are 1,600 units occupied in Chabot Terrace, 1,000 in Federal Terrace and 855 in Federal Terrace.

Carquinez Heights, which once had 1,692 units, will be completely closed by Oct. 15 as only 150 tenants are now in the project. Seven hundred of the buildings have been sold, the others will be sold, and the cleared land put on the market.

Chabot Terrace, which had a peak of 3,000 units, already has lost by sale 532 units built in Napa County as well as the Napa land, bought by a subdivider. Two hundred other units also have been sold, and as others are vacated, they will be placed on a "for sale" list, and the cleared land sold.

However, the VHA has renovated 1,032 Chabot units to be used as long as the housing is needed.

In July, 1953, the Housing Authority acquired Floyd Terrace for continued operation under provisions of Public Law 475, approved by the State Legislature, and it will be the only housing project to remain in the Vallejo area.

A board of commissioners operates the Housing Authority, and its members are Calvin B. Wortman, chairman; Charles T. Reynolds, vice-chairman; Ray M. Nutting, and H. M. Stark.