

NOTED PERSONALITY IN C.M.A.'s PAST DIES...

by ^{PL} Henry

*Midshipman ~~3C~~ Eng. 3C
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A man, probably unknown to most of us, but to whom all of the Midshipmen owe their chance at an education has gracefully passed into the annals of time.

Mr. Walter Joseph Peterson a leading figure in the founding of the California Nautical School, better known as the California Maritime Academy to us, passed away last month at the distinguished age of 89.

No more than a year ago was the last time he was to see the fruit of his efforts. He visited the Academy last September and was marveled by the work being done. He was able to see his dream of an academy in California, to train officers in the Merchant Marine become a reality.

It was this same man who in 1929 went to the state legislature and convinced them to appropriate \$250,000 to be matched by a similar sum from the Federal Government making the founding of the California Nautical School possible.

The plans for the school were drawn up by John Rolph of the Marine Department of Standard Oil and here once again Mr. Peterson stepped into the picture to play an important role.

He went to Washington and succeeded in convincing the Federal Government as to the need of such an academy and persuaded them to appropriate the necessary funds.

But this was not the end of his work. His next job was to select a vessel to facilitate practical training of the Midshipmen. For this purpose he went to Virginia where he located on the James River the Academy's first training ship, the Golden State. She was originally a low powered vessel, single screw, serving as a freighter on the Great Lakes and named the SS. Henry County. This ship served the Academy until 1946, when it was replaced by our present training ship the Golden Bear.

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Among some of Mr. Peterson's fondest memories were the ^{California} Golden State and her fine crew of Midshipmen, who under Capt. Emil Topp, also superintendent at that time; visited Washington D.C. where the President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, gave the ship and her crew a grand reception. He was justly proud of the ends of his work as shown in the accomplishments of the Academy.

Seeing his goal here had been achieved and his work done he left the Academy to reside with his daughter-in-law in Oakland where he spent his retiring years.

Among his other positions worthy of note was his political career, holding the office of Chief of Police in Oakland.

^{Alumni} ^{Midshipmen} The students and staff of the California Maritime Academy join together in a final salute to the one man to whom we all owe so much and say "well done".

EDITOR'S CORNER: IN FUTURE ISSUES OF THE BINNACLE YOU WILL BE READING ARTICLES CONCERNING: SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING A MARINE REACTOR OPERATORS LICENSE ISSUED BY THE AEC; A ROUND TRIP VIA THE BINNACLE TO ALL STOPS THAT WE WILL MAKE ON CRUISE; DIESELS AND THEIR FUTURE IN MAJOR AMERICAN FLAG VESSELS; AND OTHERS DESIGNED TO INFORM YOU AND GIVE THE OUTSIDE READER AN IDEA OF OUR INTERESTS.

The BINNACLE urges any Midshipman with an amosity or personal gripe over such matters that can be handled through the proper channels of student council, Commandant of Midshipmen, Faculty advisors, or through Upperclassmen and Midshipmen officers, to take said amosities or personal gripes to these people and get them settled.

I WISH TO THANK ALL WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE. THE STAFF AND I EXTEND OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO CMDR. KEELEY AND CALL HALL TYPEWRITER SUPPLY IN VALLEJO FOR PROVIDING US WITH A MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE.

See you next issue... *RHC*