

# Chaplain Discovers TS Golden Bear Is Vessel He Launched

When the TS Golden Bear leaves Morrow Cove tomorrow in its new role of Friend Ship en route to hungry Europe, its departure will be witnessed by at least one Naval official who was present when the vessel first hit the cold waters of Narragansett Bay at its launching Dec. 11, 1944, Comdr. Ray Cook (ChC) USN, senior chaplain at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, today recalled events of that overcast, drizzly morning at Providence, R. I., when he delivered the christening address just before the bottle of champagne hit the attack transport's bow.

Built by the Walsh-Kaiser Shipyards in that city, the vessel was launched as the USS Mellena and was christened by the wife of a civilian employe at one of the numerous launching ceremonies when civilians played starring roles. "Such participation which was a great factor in keeping up the morale of defense employes," Chaplain Cook recalled. "A ship was launched every 10 days around that period."

### AIDED MORALE

Chaplain Cook, who, with his family attended the launching ceremonies, was stationed at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Quonset Point at that time and had little occasion to follow the ca-

reer of the USS Mellena. During a recent visit to the maritime academy here, a staff member casually remarked to the chaplain "The TS Golden Bear used to be called the USS Mellena." The chaplain immediately recalled the vessel, and a photo memento album of launching scenes, at his home, Quarters Q-9, among the family souvenirs.

"Although I was often called upon to deliver an opening or closing prayer, this was the only christening address I made during a launching in the Narragansett area," he observed.

### IN AT WAR'S END

The USS Mellena was commissioned in January of 1945, a few weeks after the launching, and equipped with her crew of 250 men, immediately plunged into mop-up operations at the war's climax. She took part in invasions on Saipan and Guam, Okinawa, and later in the Philippines. Before returning to the West Coast early in 1946, she engaged in the transporting of Chinese troops along the coast of that country.

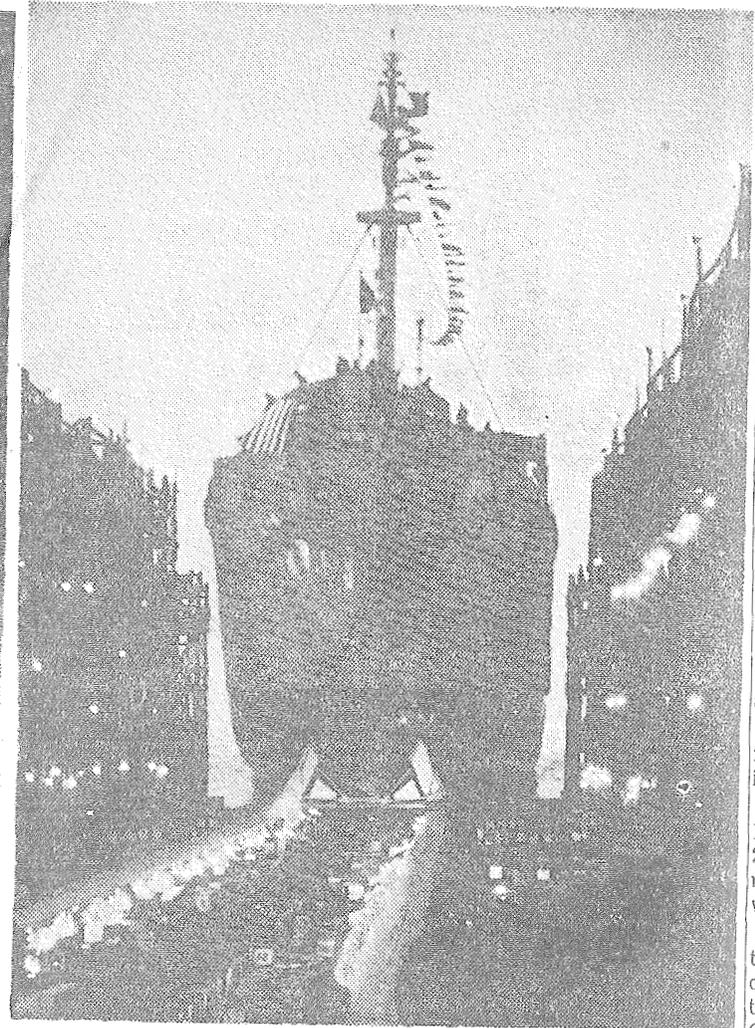
The vessel, which is 426 feet in length, has a displacement of 7,000 tons, and is a twin-screw turbo-electric propelled.

The attack transport, early in 1946, was turned back to the U. S. Maritime Commission by the U. S. Navy. In June of that year, while the California Maritime Academy was headed by Capt. Claude B. Mayo, USN, (ret.) as superintendent, it was made available to the state of California.

Through the Maritime Academy's board of governors, it then was secured for the institution, on a loan basis, as a training vessel, replacing the old TS Golden State, a much smaller ship.



**FRIEND SHIP STARTS ITS CAREER**—The USS Mellena, now the Golden Bear, is shown above as it went down the ways into the waters of Narragansett Bay, Dec. 11, 1944, when Comdr. Ray Cook, (ChC) USN, left, now Mare Island yard chaplain, delivered the christening address. The vessel, sched-



uled to leave tomorrow on its trip to Europe, went from its berth at Providence, R. I., to a brilliant career in the South Pacific before being turned over to the California Maritime Academy as a training ship, climaxed by its present mission of mercy.

## Federal-Roosevelt Area News

By LOUVENIA MOLER

All tenants are urged to attend the special meeting of the Tenants' Activities Council at 8 p. m. tonight at the Community Building. This meeting is of great importance to all residents of both terraces as the principal item on the agenda is the housing problem.

Children of the Werden Street Playground are planning a carnival to be held from 1 to 5 p. m. and 6 to 8 p. m. Jan. 31. All wishing to take part in this carnival are requested to come to the playground this week and contact Mrs. Dale Anderson, recreation director.

Mrs. Frieda Allen, 34 Rodgers street, who has been ill for the last two years, is convalescing at her home and is able to be about. Mrs. Allen is widely known in this community, having lived here since the opening of Federal Terrace and has been until her illness very active in community affairs.

The Boy Scouts of Troop 64 are making a waste fat collection to obtain funds for their summer camp. Collection is now in progress. Anyone having waste fat on hand may call 2-2070 or 2-2442 for a collector.

The students of Mrs. Georgia Freeman's high fifth grade of the Federal Terrace School were recent visitors to the Sonoma Mission and General Mariano G. Vallejo's home. This trip was taken in connection with the study of both California history and social studies. Plans are now in progress for two other classes to make similar excursions.

The Federal Terrace PTA is sponsoring a half-hour cartoon movie at the school auditorium at 12:30 p. m. tomorrow. Following this, at 1:30 p. m., the association meeting will be called to order by the president, Mrs. Harry Milne.

**LEROY JACKSON RITES**

OAKLAND, Jan. 13—(AP)—Final rites were held today for Leroy W. Jackson, 85, co-founder of the Jackson Furniture Company. He died Saturday at his home here.

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