

California Maritime School Observes 25th Anniversary

The California Maritime Academy, located in Morrow Cove near Vallejo, this year is observing the 25th anniversary of its founding. The academy, known originally as the California State Nautical School, was authorized by the 1929 session of the Legislature and became a part of the state college system when Governor C. C. Young signed the legislation for its establishment.

The Navy, under a Federal law of 1874 which permitted assistance to states which desired to establish nautical schools, loaned the school a coaling station at Tiburon, Marin county, for a site. Later the SS Henry, a Great Lakes freighter, was provided for a schoolship.

LIEUTENANT Commander Emile Topp, retired Navy officer, was selected as the first superintendent and the first class of 60 cadets entered the school in March, 1931.

In December of that year the schoolship, renamed the California State, started on its first training cruise, a 21,000 mile trip around South America, up to Washington and New York and then back to San Francisco Bay through the Panama Canal.

The first class graduated 44 of its 60 entrants in August, 1933. Captain Ralph M. G. Swany, a master mariner who is commanding officer of the present schoolship and head of the academy's department of navigation and seamanship, was a member of that class.

WORLD WAR II caused the vessel's training cruises to be restricted to San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay and the San Joaquin River.

The school's name was changed in 1939 to the California Maritime Academy. In that year it became the first maritime school in the United States to grant the bachelor of science degree and also the

first to require three years of study to qualify for the merchant marine officer's license.

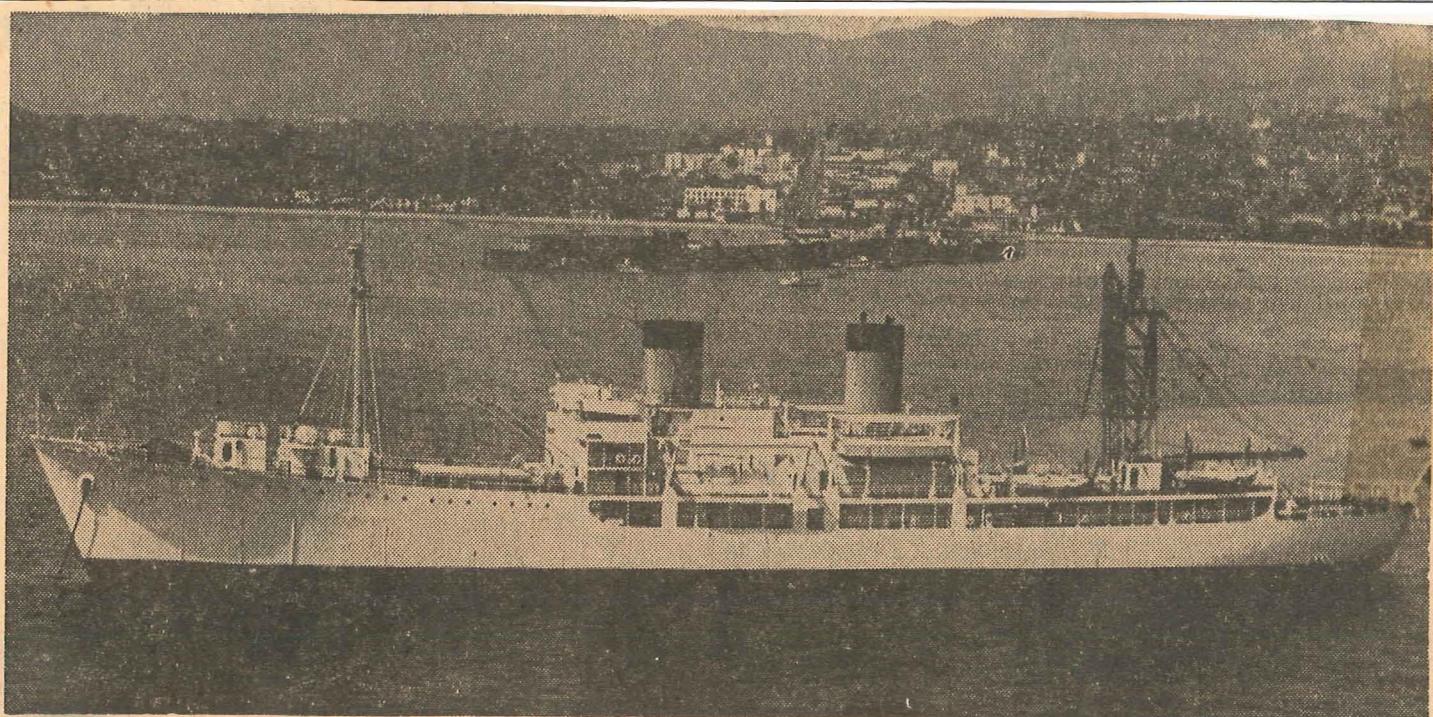
During the war years the degree was suspended because of the necessity of shortening the course to 18 months to meet the urgent war demand for more trained merchant marine officers.

The school was moved from one berth to another as the war affected conditions in San Francisco Bay. On August 24, 1943, it moved to its present permanent site at Morrow Cove on Carquinez Strait. The name of the training ship again was changed, this time to Golden Bear.

AT THE conclusion of World War II the full three year course was resumed and degrees again were conferred on graduates. Train cruises to foreign ports again were undertaken in 1946.

The stated mission of the academy as prescribed by the board of governors, is "to educate and train young men of California to become technically and morally qualified officers of the merchant marine and naval reserve in order to serve the interests of the state and nation on the high seas in peace and in war."

The Federal Maritime Commission has established a policy that 60 per cent of the merchant marine officers should be permitted to qualify from the ranks. The other 40 per cent are to be graduates of the state maritime academies. The plan provides for an enrollment quo-



Golden Bear

This is the Golden Bear, California Maritime Academy training ship,

which is known in many ports over the globe. The Maritime Academy is marking its 25th anniversary this year.

ta of approximately 200 students for the California Maritime Academy.

COMMODORE Russell M. Ihrig, retired Navy officer, is the present superintendent. He succeeded Captain Claude B. Mayo, who retired in 1947.

Although the Maritime Academy has a very small enrollment in comparison with other schools, it is a fully accredited unit of the state college system and under the supervision of the State Department of Education.

Roy E. Simpson, state superintendent of public instruction, said the graduates of the academy have had a marked success in the merchant marine and the naval reserve.

He added:

"The future need for qualified men of the sea for peace or war makes the continuance of this academy a very important part of our education system."