



the LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 1974

THE PROGRAM OF THE INSTITUTE

The Seamen's Church Institute of New York, an agency of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New York, is a unique organization devoted to the well-being and special interests of active merchant seamen.

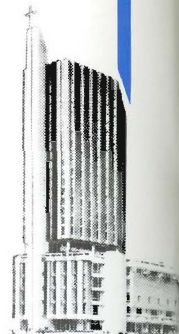
More than 753,000 such seamen of all nationalities, races and creeds come into the Port of New York every year. To many of them the Institute is their shore center in port and remains their polestar while they transit the distant oceans of the earth.

First established in 1834 as a floating chapel in New York harbor, the Institute offers a wide range of recreational and educational services for the mariner, including counseling and the help of five chaplains in emergency situations.

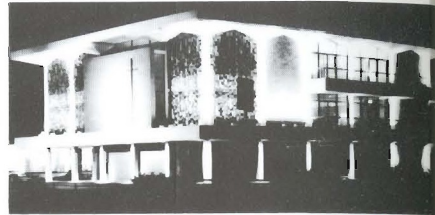
Each year 2,300 ships with 96,600 men aboard put in at Port Newark, where time ashore is extremely limited.

Here in the very middle of huge, sprawling Port Newark pulsing with activity of container-shipping, SCI has provided an oasis known as the Mariners International Center which offers seamen a recreational center especially constructed and designed, operated in a special way for the very special needs of the men. An outstanding feature is a soccer field (lighted at night) for games between ship teams.

Although 57% of the overall Institute budget is met by income from seamen and the public, the cost of special services comes from endowment and contributions. Contributions are tax deductible.



Seamen's Church Institute
State and Pearl Streets
Manhattan



Mariners International Center (SCI)
Export and Calcutta Streets
Port Newark, N.J.

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The Right Reverend
Paul Moore, Jr., S.T.D., D.D.
Honorary President

John G. Winslow
President

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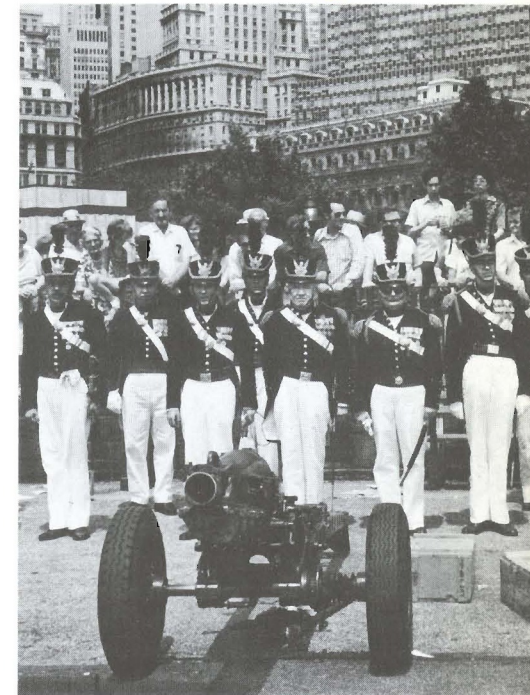
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Thousands Visit SCI on July 4th

Fourth of July in Old New York is a very special day in Lower Manhattan. Thousands of people pour into the area to enjoy a full day of traditional and modern events and entertainments which truly catch the unique spirit which helps make this nation great. The day was auspiciously opened with the Veteran Corps of Artillery Color Guard dressed in 1812 uniforms firing a 50 Round Cannon Salute to the states from the Battery and after that, the day went full swing till fireworks over the Battery ended the festival.

Thousands of visitors including many of our readers and Institute friends, visited us here at SCI, to see our exhibits, dine or just take a brief rest from the heat of the day.

We only wish that we could have said "Hello" to all of you, but considering the crowds we did the best we could and do appreciate your coming by. You're always a welcome guest at our house.



SCI To Get Whole New Town For Neighbor



Just across the street from the Institute and up about two blocks along the waterfront is the site of one of the most notable and largest urban development projects in the nation, Battery Park City, often described as New York City's "new-town in-town."

Once the site of abandoned and decaying piers, the area has already been replaced by landfill which, when completed, will add 100 acres to Manhattan island.

On this site will rise a new town designed to contain six million square feet

Park City Authority and a man considered by many to be one of the nation's top authorities in housing and community renewal.

According to Mr. Urstadt's office, construction on the first group of residential units will begin before the end of this year with July 4, 1976 scheduled as the date of occupancy for the first residential tenant.

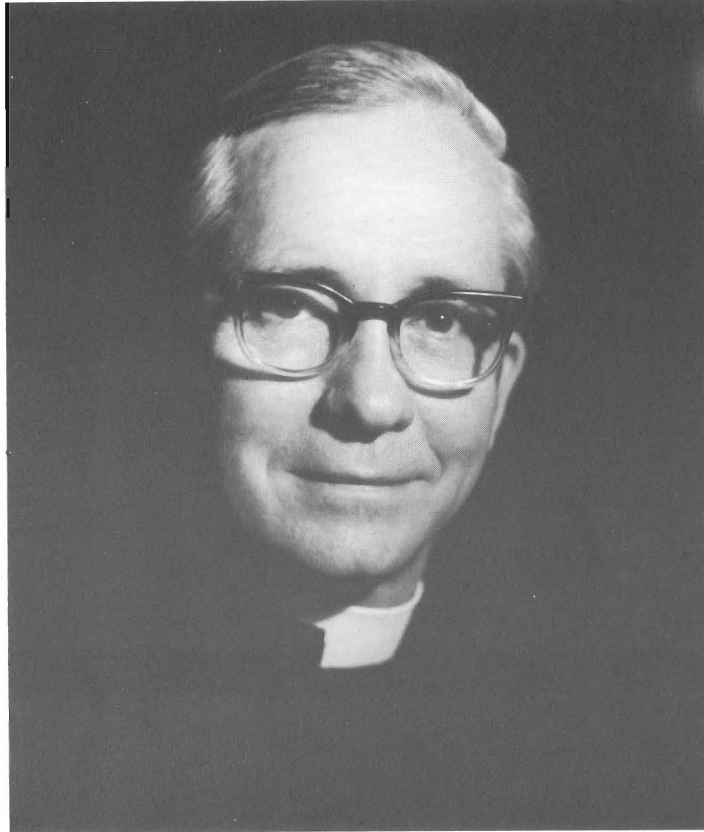
As one of the oldest long-term residents in Lower Manhattan (140 years) the Seamen's Church Institute naturally looks forward to the arrival of these new neighbors and is already planning with other concerned groups to see that the necessary human services will be available and that the residents themselves will be included in, as well as add to the downtown neighborhood.

It isn't everyday that a city gets a new town added to its midst, and for us that's quite an event — especially when it's right next door.

For all those interested in moving downtown, questions and applications for residency can be made to Battery Park Housing, 40 West 57th Street, NYC 10019.

of office space, an additional two million square feet for hotel, shopping, educational and recreational facilities; and approximately 16,000 residential units — truly a complete new town.

At the helm of this vast operation is Mr. Charles Urstadt, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Battery



The Reverend Robert Ray Parks

The Board of Managers of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York is pleased to announce the recent election of The Reverend Robert Ray Parks to its Board.

Dr. Parks is the fifteenth Rector of the Parish of Trinity Church, New York City and was called to this office in 1972 after a distinguished eleven year record of service as Dean of St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, Florida.

Since his arrival in New York, Dr. Parks has become deeply involved in the life of lower Manhattan; helping to determine and direct both the present and future needs and ministry of this vast and varied downtown community.

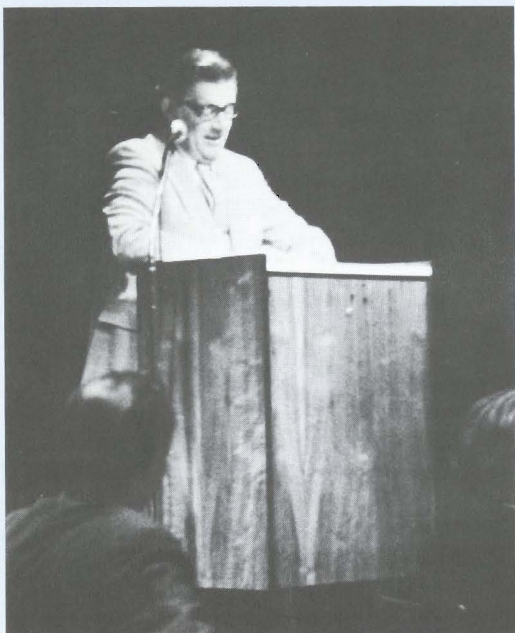
Summer School at the ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

In spite of the inquietudes of a New York summer, a number of gentlemen from throughout the United States and Europe attended SCI's first "long weekend" seminars in Intermodal Transportation and EDP Computer techniques.

Class work was intensive with more than 20 hours of instruction per course given during the seminars two and one-half days. Needless to say there were some tired but better informed students by the time classes ended.



However, there were ample coffeekicks for stretching the body and relaxing the mind during the class day and our food service saw that hot and appetizing meals were always ready on time.



One of the highlights of the seminar was a luncheon at which Mr. George Hearn, Vice Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, was the keynote speaker and which was attended by numerous maritime industry leaders as well as regular Roosevelt maritime students, seamen in SCI's Merchant Marine School and staff school personnel.

NEEDLES IN THE ATTIC

Many of our Women's Council volunteer knitters ask us if we can get them bone knitting needles. They are rarely found nowadays; and although we do locate a few in "thrift shops" our demand always exceeds supply.

So should you have any bone needles, numbers 4, 5, or 6 and would like to donate them to our "Christmas Box" effort we and our knitters would be most appreciative.

Just send the needles to:
Mrs. Constance West
SCI Women's Council
15 State Street
New York, New York 10004

Thanks in advance for your help.



A Maritime Sampler from

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

by Wendy Shadwell

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Editor's Note:

We are particularly pleased to present this brief article on The New-York Historical Society and its Maritime Collection in particular. We feel that the museum holds one of the finest marine collections in the area and should be seen by all who love the history of New York and the sea.

In addition, the Society has often furnished us with photos of special marine items for use in this publication; and by sheer coincidence, Miss Shadwell, the article's author, is the daughter of one of our Women's Council's volunteer knitters. She is also the Curator of Prints for the Society.

Founded in 1804, the purpose of the New-York Historical Society was "to collect and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil or ecclesiastical History of the United States in general and of this State in particular."

Its acquisitions policy has changed somewhat over the years; and the Society no longer collects natural history specimens. Material dealing exclusively with other states is now generally the preserve of the local societies that have proliferated throughout the country since the New-York Historical Society was established.

In that New York City has always been an outstanding port, marine items form an important part of the Society's holdings. Some of these pieces were among the earliest acquisitions of the Society, and objects of high quality and signifi-

cance are still sought today. One notable large addition was made in 1925 when the Naval History Society, including a library and print collection, was incorporated with the Society. In 1963 it was bequeathed a major portion of the Irving S. Olds collection of naval prints and paintings. Hundreds of other objects have been amassed over the years by gift, bequest, and purchase. Examples of maritime material are customarily incorporated in the permanent exhibitions in the Society's museum which is open free of charge to the public on Saturday from 10 to 5, and on Sunday and Tuesday through Friday from 1 to 5—year round. The society is located on Central Park West between 76th and 77th Streets. Following is a selection of representative pieces of special interest.

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This certificate of membership in the Society of Master Sailmakers of the City of New York was issued to Christopher Duyckinck, Jr., in 1795. It was designed and engraved on copper by Elkanah Tisdale who was active as an illustrator, engraver, and miniature painter in New York from 1794 to 1798. The vignettes show scenes of weaving, sailmaking, shipbuilding, and the dispensing of charity, one of the primary responsibilities of this organization which occupied a place midway between a medieval guild and modern labor union.

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Andrew Melrose (1836-1901) was the painter of this impressionistic oil of Battery Park and New York Harbor, alive with ships under sail and steam. The octagonal building at the right, originally Castle Clinton, a War of 1812 fortification, was later known as Castle Garden, a fashionable concert hall. By 1885, the date of this painting, it was used as an immigrant station and subsequently became the city aquarium; it is now a national monument under the auspices of the National Park Service. This view was taken a few yards from the present Seamen's Church Institute on State Street.

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David Abeel (1763-1840), the subject of this oil portrait of ca. 1795-1800 by an unidentified artist, served as a midshipman on the frigate *Alliance* during the American Revolution. He later became the captain of a merchant vessel, which is shown in the background flying an American flag and two pennants. Abeel holds a pair of dividers in his right hand and a scroll in his left, as if charting a course. He wears a dark blue coat with gold buttons and a yellow waistcoat; his shirtsleeves are ruffled and his stock tied in a bow is edged with delicate lace. The Abeels were an old New York family of Dutch descent whose members were active as iron merchants and ship captains.

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The iron bell from Robert Fulton's original steamboat *Clermont* had a roving career before coming to rest safely and permanently at the society in 1949. It was on the *Clermont* when she made her famous trip to Albany in 1807, used as the signal for approaches and departures at the various Hudson River landings. When the ship was broken up, the bell was preserved and then purchased at auction by a private collector. Collectors in New York State, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania owned it at various times. The Hudson Day Line acquired it for display on a replica of the *Clermont* constructed for the Hudson-Fulton Celebration of 1909, and subsequently donated it to the society.

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The society owns an impressive collection of fifty-one ship paintings executed in oil or watercolor by the twins James and John Bard of New York. They specialized in portraying the steamboats and small sailing vessels of New York City and the Hudson River. This oil of the sidewheeler *Seawanhaka* with the *Arrowsmith* in the background at the right, and a number of tiny sailboats at the far left was painted by James Bard in 1868. The primitive charm of this representation is enhanced by the meticulous and detailed rendering of the ships' structure and the decorative patterning of sea, clouds, windows, flags, and pennants.

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A photographic view of South Street looking up the East River in 1887 shows a forest of masts. Pier 9 in the foreground is flanked by the barks *Lobo* and *Henrietta*. Pier 10, beyond, accommodates the schooner *Florence Shay* and the down-Easter *R.R. Thomas*; the large vessel at the end of Pier 10 is the *John R. Kelley*. Note the horse-drawn cargo wagons along the street — a far cry from containerization!

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The cigar store Indian is a relatively familiar concept; the cigar store sailor is much less common. The society's sailor by an anonymous woodcarver holds out a rough block in his right hand against which matches could be struck. His jacket retains a fair bit of its original blue paint. Although there is little animation in his face, he stands in a relaxed contrapposto posture and his dark tie flutters sideways, as though blown by the wind.

All photos in this article are courtesy of "The New-York Historical Society," New York City.

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Scrimshaw, the art of carving or engraving designs into the teeth, bones, or tusks of such animals as the whale and walrus, has long been a favorite pastime of sailors. In 1943 a donor gave the society a large collection of scrimshawed whales' teeth and walrus tusks and carved ivory toys — a fish, a whale, a walrus, and two cribbage boards. The tusk illustrated here is decorated on one side with an arctic scene of Eskimos with dogsleds, the other shows three seals, one of which has a fish in its mouth, against an icy, craggy background.

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The Legend of the Waving Girl

The coast of Georgia is famous for its many islands. Among these is one near the mouth of the Savannah River called Elba. As on the other distant island by this name, there once lived another lonely person. This was to be the home of Florence Martus for almost fifty years.

Florence was born on nearby Cockspur Island on August 7, 1869, in the old engineers quarters, within the shadows of Fort Pulaski. In 1886, when she was seventeen, her father died. She moved to Elba Island to keep house for her brother George, who maintained the lights along the Savannah River.

During her first year on Elba, legend tells us that Florence fell in love with a young seaman and soon thereafter they were married when he returned from sea. As she would not know on which ship he would return, she promised to wave to every ship entering the harbor. Her greeting by day was to be the waving of a handkerchief; by night a lantern. This part of the legend we know to be true, for

she extended this greeting for 45 years from the porch of the little white cottage on Elba.

Florence never admitted this story. However, she did say that she was very lonely living with her brother and pet dog on the island and that she first gave this welcome to the tug boats and ships using Savannah as their home port. Later she extended her greeting to include all vessels entering and leaving the harbor.

The foreign ships enjoyed this salutation and as soon as they passed Tybee Island they began looking for the lady, who became known around the world as "The Waving Girl". Her greeting was always returned by the blast of the ship's horn.

In 1931, when George Martus retired, he and Florence moved to the mainland to live near Savannah at Bona Bella. On Armistice Day 1943, the year Florence died, a troop ship — the S.S. FLORENCE MARTUS — was launched in a Savannah shipyard.

by E. William Thomson

A statue, the work of Felix de Weldon, now stands to her memory in Riverside Park, on the bank of the Savannah River. It was a gift to the city by the Altrusa Club. It depicts Florence standing with raised arms waving a handkerchief. At her feet is the lantern to be used at night and by her side stands her pet collie.

In the words of the Georgia seaman poet, Yon Swanson ...

*"Off Elba's Isle each ship that passed
looked for her warmly waving –
The first to greet them, or the last
sweet memory for saving.*

*"By day her fluttering handkerchief,
by night her lantern's glow,
to send the seamen message brief
of soft Goodbye, or warm Hello!*

*"And seamen, all the world around,
in thought of her on Elba Isle,
upon their own lips often found
the echo of her friendly smile."*



YON SWANSON

drawing courtesy seaman/artist & poet Yon Swanson

BOARD MEMBER MAKES SPECIAL RUN ABOARD MORGENTHAU



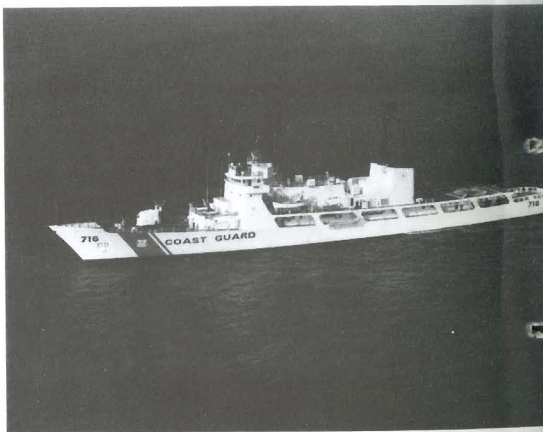
In honor of National Defense Transportation Day, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter, MORGENTHAU made a special run from its home port at Governors Island, N.Y. to pier 84 in Manhattan where she was open for public inspection for the weekend.

Among the distinguished guests making the special run were Captain George W. Wagner, Chief of Staff — Third Coast Guard District; New York's Summer Festival Queen — Miss Patricia Mauceri; and Mr. John G. Winslow, President of SCT's Board of Managers.

Named for Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury from 1934 until July 1945, the 378-foot vessel utilizes the latest concepts in naval architecture and engineering. Her speed, range and high degree of maneuverability makes her unmatched by any ship smaller than a cruiser.

Closed circuit television gives the Commanding Officer direct knowledge of activities that cannot be observed from the bridge. This is extremely useful in controlling flight deck operations, machinery conditions, towing damage control and related activities.

The MORGENTHAU is equipped with the most advanced air-search and surface-search radars ideally suited for search and rescue operations. For precise position determination, the ship uses LORAN A and LORAN C receivers. For accurate homing on distressed ships or aircraft, multi-frequency direction finders are used. The radio communication system is designed to enable simultaneous transmissions on four different frequencies.



LANDLOCKED

by Ina S. Stovall

*Too old was he for voyaging,
His children said, and put him where
Impersonal hills imprisoned him
And he is cursed with cradled care.*

*But in his ears the gull's shrill
cries
Still ring, and still the salty
spray
Stings in his nostrils; still the
sway
Of wave-tossed timbers guides his
gait.*

*Forbidden seas remembered, blue
Mauve, emerald, gray, seduce his
eyes...*

*While rebel heart knows — late, too
late! —*

The harsh compulsion to be free,

*To turn his back on hovering hills
And turn his footsteps toward the
sea!*

Seamen's Church Institute of N. Y.

**15 State Street
New York, N. Y. 10004**

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of New York ... Meeting
the needs of Merchant Seamen
for 140 years

