

Present status of new Annex construction

The LOOKOUT

SEAMEN'S
CHURCH
INSTITUTE
of NEW YORK

Volume XVII
Number IV

April
1926

The LOOKOUT

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or

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The Lookout

VOL. XVII

APRIL, 1926

No. 4

The Floor of the Seven Seas



THE LOBBY

The Predicament

The eighty-second anniversary of the Institute, celebrated this month, found it in the midst of one of its most critical phases of development. Its present building outgrown, it has added an Annex which is fast nearing completion. This development, which will make possible the Institute's aim to be of maximum service to the man of the sea, will cost approximately \$2,750,000, of which

[1]

\$750,000 has been subscribed, leaving about \$2,000,000 yet to be secured from the friends of seamen.

To raise this sum of money, a group of representative New York men and women have organized a building fund campaign committee under the chairmanship of John E. Berwind, of the Berwind-White Coal Mining Company.

Little did the men who founded what is now the Seamen's Church Institute of New York dream in 1844 that one day their tiny mission on an East River barge would not only outgrow its floating chapel, but a great thirteen story building at 25 South Street. Yet this has come to pass. The Institute must enlarge its quarters or stunt its growth, a growth that in the past has done so much good among the men who make possible world-wide commerce.

After eighty-two years of service, it is not unusual that the Institute has become a proverb of the seven seas, among sailormen of every nationality. It is to the Institute that such men turn when in the Port of New York. A reputation has been made and it now must be maintained.

There is grave danger of undoing the work that has been done by failing to provide the sort of home accommodations that were once to be found at 25 South Street—recreation and game rooms, a library, writing rooms, a meeting hall and plenty of beds. Though the Institute has put up 300,000 seamen in a year, it has been forced to turn away more than 100,000 men during the past three years. Many of these men had to go out into the cold of wintry nights because of lack of room in the great thirteen story building. This does not help reputation.

In view of the situation, Mr. Berwind issued

the following statement from the building fund campaign headquarters at 11 Broadway:

"The Institute is the product of its friends. Once it was a theory, now it is a fact. It has demonstrated.

"But in growing, the Institute has reached a place in its progress where it needs its friends more than ever. It needs them to provide the remaining \$2,000,000 for the building fund.

"The Institute is not a charitable organization. It is a philanthropic establishment for men of the sea. It is 75 per cent. self-supporting. Its sole purpose is to help the seaman to help himself.

"Helping a man to help himself is one of the greatest services that can be accomplished. Was that not what the Great Teacher preached?

"Now how can you help a seafarer to help himself—to make a better man of himself and a better world out of that in which he comes in contact? The Institute is your answer. It provides the trained staff of workers, the equipment, the environment and the home. All that is asked of its friends is the necessary support.

"This support can best be manifested by subscribing to the building fund that will complete the Annex. Many are the means of subscribing. One can become a Benefactor by contributing \$3,000 or more. One can become a Founder by a donation of \$10,000 or more. And there are Memorials. One can give rooms and equipment in memory of some loved one, a memorial that will be appreciated by a seaman every day that the Institute functions.

"What the Institute has done for the seaman I need not enumerate here to the friends who read this monthly bulletin. I only stress the importance of helping it to realize this fund so that its work may be carried on. What the Institute is and

means has been epitomized by an editorial in the *New York Sun* which read in part:

"This Seamen's Institute is not a mere dormitory, a lodging house, a transient shelter conducted by benevolence. It is a vital and pulsing institution run sanely and wisely by men of experience who have no illusions. It has a social service which helps seamen out of legal snares concerning passports, repatriation and wages; gets them into hospitals and out of jail when they deserve it; assists them with their correspondence, hunts for them when they are lost; guides them when they are apprentices, maintains a navigation and marine engineering school, runs a "bank" in which their nest eggs are safe, stores their dunnage, has an employment office, the usual thing in good restaurants, a post office. And all this is done in a way that convinces the men who avail themselves of the Institute facilities that they are getting their rights, not charity.'

"The needs of the Institute have been made plain." Mr. Berwind concluded. "What is at stake is apparent. A reputation so perseveringly won must not be allowed to tarnish. Therefore let us make this anniversary month a singular month by providing the fund needed to complete this Annex, which will permit the building to shelter 1,500 men nightly and turn no man from its door into the darkness of night."

General Committee

The building fund campaign's general committee is made up of the following:

JOHN E. BERWIND, *Chairman*

JOSEPH P. DAY, *Vice-Chairman*

JUNIUS S. MORGAN, Jr., *Treasurer*

All the Members of the Institute's

Board of Managers

and

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STEPHEN BAKER	EDWIN G. MERRILL
MRS. EDMUND L. BAYLIES	ADOLPH S. OCHS
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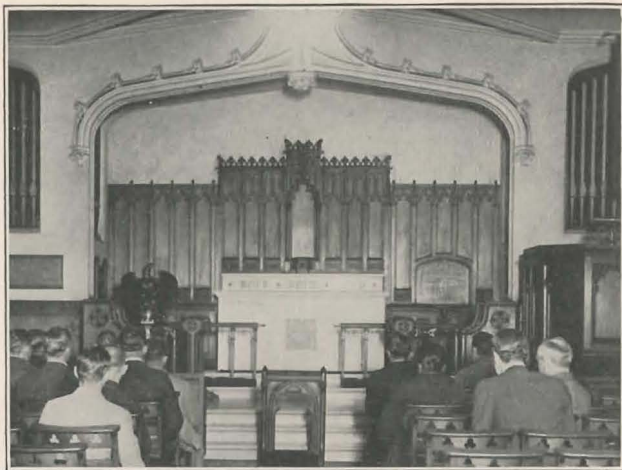
Checks should be made payable to "Junius S. Morgan, Jr., Treasurer, Building Fund," or to "Bank of New York & Trust Co., Ass't. Treasurer," and sent to Bank of New York & Trust Company, 52 Wall Street.

At Eastertide

Men who fought the elements, life's temptations and kindred enemies, bowed their heads in prayer at the services conducted in the Chapel of Our Saviour on Easter Sunday. The scent of lilies drifted through the chapel, hallowing thoughts colored by the spirit of the day.

The morning communion was well attended, and in the evening the sailors turned out in larger numbers. Many friends of the Institute from far and near attended both services.

Chapel



WHERE SEAMEN WORSHIP

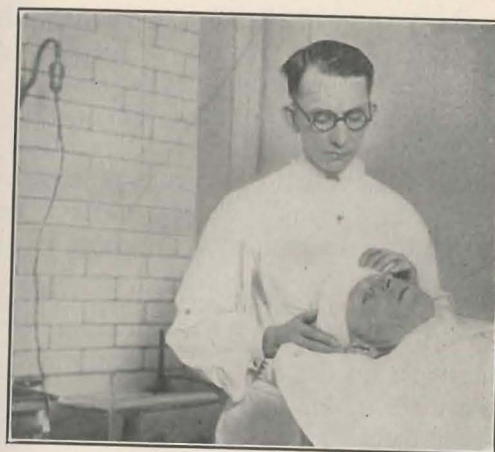
Departmental Heads



Front row—Mr. Morasso, Mrs. Roper, Miss Kellogg, Mrs. Baxter, Mr. Miller

Second row—Mr. Hoskins, Mr. Maynard, Dr. Green, Mr. Ryan

In the Clinic



MR. GOLDSMITH AND A PATIENT

Salvage and Repairs

The Institute not only shelters the seaman and feeds him, finds him work and guards him from temptation, it mends him when he is hurt and heals him when he is ill. This is the service of the Clinic which must be enlarged to accommodate the building's new annex population.

The Clinic is a branch of the Marine Hospital at Hudson and Jay Streets. Dr. Robert F. Zeiss and his assistant, George Goldsmith, daily patch up and make well the stricken sailormen.

To the Clinic, between thirty and forty seamen make their way every day. They have colds, sore throats, split thumbs, infected fingers, cuts, bruises, aches, pains and the one and many things that robs living of comfort, ease and health. Without charge the two clinicians treat them. Last year these two men gave 10,798 treatments to seamen.

Another function of Dr. Zeiss is to give First Aid Lectures to the students of the Navigation School. It was the Institute that sponsored regulations which made it necessary for every licensed officer to have knowledge of First Aid. His lecture hours in 1925 totalled 255.

Sick seamen must be cared for. The Clinic does this. It obtains admissions to convalescent homes and recommends "loans" by the Social Service Department to tide the man over a period of his recuperation.

Many are the seamen who owe their lives to the Clinic and for that reason, to the Institute. Often a seaman calls on the doctor. Hard and strong, he thinks little of his ailment. The doctor finds it necessary to call an ambulance and immediately ship the man to a hospital for constant care. Influenza and pneumonia victims have been saved through the skill of these two clinicians during the past winter.

Dr. Zeiss is at the Clinic throughout the day, while Mr. Goldsmith lives in the building. He is on call at any hour for seaman or employee.

Friends of the Institute are asked to consider the work of this department. With the new Annex, 1,500 men nightly will present a medical problem of some proportions. A new dispensary and hospital rooms are being completed at a cost of \$50,000. It is suggested that this unit might be donated as a memorial.

Memorials

Seamen are a rough and tumble lot but at heart, they are deeply human and appreciative. Many a man who has stopped at the Institute has appreciated the friend who made the building, the room and the service he enjoyed, possible—the friend whose name he knew only from a tablet on

the door of his room or in the corner of a building he favored.

Seamen often remember the names of the donors in whose rooms they slept on previous occasions and they ask that they be permitted to have such rooms again. With some it is for "luck," with others, sentiment. It is their simple homage to a friend they never saw, but one who has taken a place in their minds—and hearts.

Below is a list of suggestions for memorials—memorials in the form of important units in the building.

Entrance Doorway and Lobby	\$50,000
Reading and Lounge Room (10,000 sq. ft.).....	\$50,000
Dispensary and Hospital Rooms.....	\$50,000
1 Wing of 18 Officers' Bedrooms and Wash Room on Twelfth Floor	\$30,000
2 Wings of Seamen's Bedrooms (19 with running water, 14 ordinary rooms)..... <i>Each</i>	\$25,000
Enlarged Apprentices' Room, including Cloak Room and name as Founder	\$25,000
1 Block of 15 Officers' Bedrooms on Twelfth Floor...	\$20,000
19 Corridors of Seamen's Bedrooms..... <i>Each</i>	\$15,000
Superintendent's and Administration Offices.....	\$15,000
5 Wings of nine Seamen's Bedrooms..... <i>Each</i>	\$7,000
1 Wing of five Officers' Bedrooms on Twelfth Floor...	\$7,000
1 Wing of five Officers' Bedrooms on Fifth Floor.....	\$7,000
8 Very Large Dormitory Wash Rooms..... <i>Each</i>	\$5,000
10 Bedrooms and Endowment for free use of dependent convalescents	\$5,000
6 Forty-two-bed Open Dormitories	\$5,000
1 Cloak and Wash Room for Volunteer Women Workers	\$5,000
1 Public Dining Room.....	\$5,000
1 Dressing and Wash Room for Men and Clerical Employees	\$3,000
41 Staff and Licensed Officers' Bedrooms..... <i>Each</i>	\$1,500
211 Seamen's Bedrooms with running water	\$1,000
205 Seamen's Bedrooms	\$500
Name as Co-Builder in Entrance Lobby	\$1,000 to \$500
3 Drinking Fountains on Second, Third and Fourth Floors	\$500
8 Drinking Fountains on Dormitory Floors..... <i>Each</i>	\$250
200 Chapel Chairs	\$50

A Man's Clergyman

Typical of the men the Institute selects to carry on its mission is the Rev. William H. Cumpston, the new chaplain in charge of religious work.

He is a man who for seven years sailed the seven seas. He has lived among cowboys in the great West and has carried the Bible into the coal fields of West Virginia. During the war, he did his bit with the Foyer de Soldats and the American Y. M. C. A., overseas.

Like the rest of the men on the Institute staff, he is a man's man. Singularly fitted for work among sailormen, speaking the tongue of the sea and knowing the heart of the seafarer, he will guide the spiritual side of the men he knows so well.

Mr. Cumpston went to sea as an apprentice on the four masted bark, *Iranian*. In those days there was no Institute in this town to welcome the young apprentice and provide him with the means of wholesome amusement. Sailor Town was a town of dives, saloons and low boarding houses, all under the dominion of the crimp—the crimp whom the Institute exterminated.

Leaving the sea, Mr. Cumpston worked as a laborer in the orange groves of California. Later seasons found him in the cow camps of New Mexico and Colorado. Family ties finally drew him East. But his heart was set on returning to the West.

He went to work in a Boston hospital as a nurse. When next he went among the men of the West he wanted to be in a position to help them, to heal them. He even took up the study of dentistry at the Philadelphia Dental College.

But it was not long before he realized that he could only help men and heal men by giving life to a deep rooted ambition, the desire to succor the

spiritual side of men. So he prepared himself at the Virginia Theological Seminary. In 1911, Bishop Gravatt of West Virginia ordained him. His first parish was Zion Church in Charlestown, W. Va.

The war came and Mr. Cumpston volunteered. He went to France and served with the French and American canteens. For his work among the *poilus* on the Alsatian front, he was decorated with the *Blanc et Rouge* Medal for Civilians.

Returning to his homeland and still bent on going West, he became a missionary in the coal fields. For the last five years he preached the word of God in troubled Logan County, W. Va.

Then came his call to the Institute, a call to help and heal the souls of men, seamen, of whom he was one at the bottom of his heart. So on Palm Sunday he preached his first sermon in the Chapel.

Easter Party

The Apprentices' Room rang with merry laughter on the Thursday evening following Easter. The occasion was the Easter dance sponsored by the South Shore Association.

This group of women headed by Mrs. George Downing Sparks, Mrs. E. A. Raff, Mrs. Francis Smyth and Miss Virginia Raff are doing much to teach the apprentice seamen of other nations that ours is a hospitable one, standing for all that is wholesome. Its parties are not soon forgotten according to the many letters recounting pleasant memories, received by Mrs. Baxter.

Mothers the world over have this Apprentices' Room to thank for much of the good their sons bring home from their wanderings across the seas. With the new quarters in the Annex, the depart-

ment will extend its work and accommodate more of these youths between sixteen and twenty who have come to rely upon the Institute for clean, wholesome entertainment.

The Seamen's Service Conference

For some time the Institute has realized that much could be accomplished in dealing with seamen's problems by the organization of a conference of the various societies in New York working for seamen. An organization of sixteen such societies in New York was effected, known as the Seamen's Service Conference, under the Chairmanship of the Director of Social Service at the Institute, Rev. G. A. Green.

The Conference has recently completed and published a brochure for seamen which is being

Wholesome Recreation



CHECKERS

distributed by the members of the Conference, containing information on eligibility to marine hospitals, loss of ships in foreign ports, accidents or illness aboard ship, and questions of law, wages, and lodging.

It is the first time in the history of seamen's welfare organizations that these questions have been discussed and agreed upon by all organizations in the port who deal with seamen. The brochure represents several months' work on the part of the Conference, the text having been approved by the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, and all of the member organizations. Miss Madeleine Oldfield of the Social Service Department, U. S. Marine Hospital No. 70, is Secretary of the Conference.

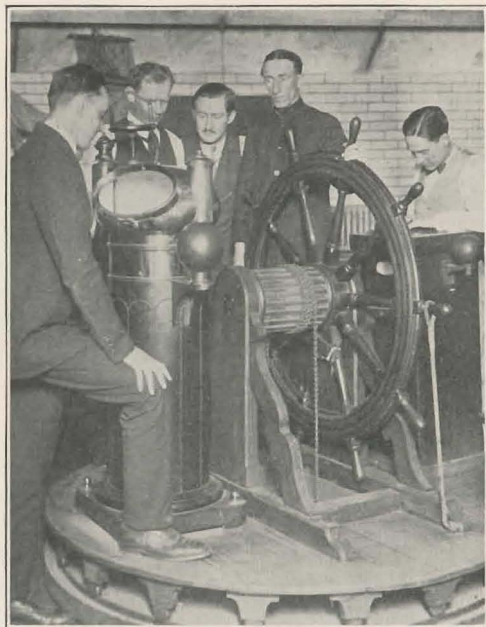
Find the Man!

With the facilities for giving a home nightly to 1,500 seamen—the Annex in other words—the Missing Men Department will be in a better position than ever to function, that happiness may enter the lives of seamen's loved ones, those who seek their kin. It is because many men must be refused admittance on account of cramped quarters that seafarers whose names are on the list of missing men pass through port for foreign parts, missing an opportunity of seeing the list and of reunion with those they love.

Mrs. Roper, the House Mother, includes among her many duties, that of "Find the man!" Daily she communicates with the ports of the world, tracing this man, forwarding an address to that one or asking a despondent relative not to despair of finding a son, husband or father, missing for months or years.

Recently, a man wrote from Port Said that he saw his name on one of the Institute's lists of missing men. He inquired as to who sought him. Mrs. Roper forwarded his mother's address. Months later, she received a letter from him stating that his mother had moved away. It was Mrs. Roper who traced the mother and brought her son to her, though her letters coursed thousands of miles over land and sea to effect this one reunion.

Those Who Study



THE NAVIGATION SCHOOL

The Temporary Mother



MRS. BAXTER AND APPRENTICES

For Youth

There are mothers all over the world who may know little about the Institute itself but who pray for its Apprentices' Room and the success of those who manage it. In that room the youth of the sea that is in training for officership find comradery, good books and the wholesome amusements of home. Mrs. Baxter is the hostess, a woman to whom mothers turn to locate or help a son.

Mrs. Baxter is herself a mother. And she thinks so much of her own particular, personal job, she feels she must share some of her ability for mothering with other mothers' sons.

What the parents of boys who have made themselves at home in the Apprentices' Room think,

may be gleaned from these two letters. From Hull, a mother wrote:

MRS. BAXTER.

Dear Lady:—I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken of writing to you, but I feel I must just thank you for all your kindness to my boys—Frank and Jack. They often tell me of the happy times they have spent at the Mission and how good you are to them, and I just want to thank you for it and to let you know I appreciate the good work you are carrying on. I am very proud of my boys and I feel they are good, and I feel sure it helps them to run straight when they have such places to go to. I have been very worried about Jack. He has been very poorly but I had a letter from Frank assuring me that he has the best attention that was possible. He has been away two (2) years come May and we feel so helpless so far away from him, but I just pray for them and we have to leave them in better hands than ours.

Again thanking you sincerely for all you have done, I remain,

Yours truly,

MRS. S.

A father wrote to Mrs. Baxter:

DEAR MRS. BAXTER:—In a letter from Clifford at the beginning of the year, he told me how very kind you were to him and how welcome you made him directly he got into New York and passed on the invitation from other friends, and so enabled him to have a splendid time through Christmas. It was very good of you and I am sure God will bless you, as I feel sure your work and care for the lads is done for the Master's sake.

Will you please accept my grateful thanks? I had been rather worried as to where he would spend his Christmas, and knowing how rough the storms, etc., had been it just made my heart rejoice when I read his letter. I can hardly express how dear he is to me, or how much I miss his cheery voice.

He expressed a wish that it were possible for me to know you, and truly I just echo it, and who knows what may happen. Anyway, I shall ever remember you in prayer.

With best wishes and big success in all you undertake,

Yours truly,

C. W.

A Four-Legged Sailor

So cramped for space are the seamen, every night they overflow the lobby, and "park" on the stairs. In the Annex this will not occur. But for one old salt it was a happy predicament.

Pressing through the crowded floor, he made his way to the landing where attendants were not apt to see him. There, from beneath his ragged coat, he drew a bedraggled poodle dog. A few crusts and a paper cup full of milk was the dog's meal.

"Got him in London," he explained. "Fine lil pal. Never barks. Always good. Not supposed to bring him in here. Against rules. But I have no bed here tonight so we'll keep warm as long as we can stay. Maybe next time we're here, there'll be a bed in the new part for me and a place for 'Ging' here. There really ought to be some accommodations for the likes o' 'Ging.'"

"Ging" lapped up his milk from the cup, blinked at passersby and seemed to appreciate the warm hospitality, unaware that lack of accommodations would soon mean he and his master must return to the cold night.

Results

The Institute wants results. And it gets them. Its workers have a tenacity which assures them.

A story of results is to be found in a folder filed with the Social Service Department, a folder more than an inch thick with correspondence covering two long years. It is this:

One day a man presented the baggage check of another seaman. He explained that he was acting

in behalf of the baggage owner's widow and children in Scotland. The owner had been killed here in a quarry accident.

The baggage was opened and in searching for papers of importance it was learned that the dead man was entitled to workman's compensation. The Institute enlisted its service in behalf of the widow and children.

The Social Service Department negotiated with the insurance company, sought the aid of the American Consul in Edinburgh and the British Consul General here and finally arranged the payment.

By hanging on to the case, the Institute got results. It got \$3,000 insurance for a seaman's family.

What a Dollar Did

One cold night about three years ago, a seedy-looking young man approached Mrs. Roper as she was chatting with a group of seamen.

"I'm hungry," he said, somewhat ashamed of his words.

Mrs. Roper knew that there is a relief department for such men and she knew too that the boy who stood before her was not the type to seek that relief. She questioned him. He told her that he was unable to get a bed at the Institute that night because all were taken. But if he could only get a bite to eat, he said, he would be all right. He could tackle the chill of any substantial doorway until daylight and time to look for a job came around.

The House Mother then indulged in her worst habit—she made the youth a personal loan of a dollar. Whether he repaid it did not matter to her. She knew he was hungry. That did matter.

Recently a tidy-looking young man with bright eyes hailed her in the lobby. She did not recognize him. He introduced himself.

"I'm on my way to being an officer now," he smiled. "And I owe it all to you. I give you the dollar that kept me straight."

The Thrift Window



MR. BUNCE

The "Bank"

The habit of saving is contagious in the Institute. A "Bank" in the basement tempts the seaman to save some of his pay. He patronizes that tiny office once or twice and soon becomes a regular frequenter when his ship comes to port.

The "Bank" does three things:

1. It issues receipts for money left with it, to be paid out in small sums as requested. This money is deposited in a special account in a National bank.

THE LOOKOUT

2. It issues, without charge, drafts of the American Express Company, payable in any part of the world.

3. It encourages the placing of money in the Savings Banks of New York City in individual accounts. These accounts are now being placed in the Seamen's Bank of Savings in Wall Street.

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

25 SOUTH STREET
(NEW ANNEX BUILDING FUND)

In consideration of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York agreeing to complete the Annex to its present building, I hereby subscribe toward the same

the sum of _____ Dollars \$

Payable as indicated by my cross-mark (x) below:

Full amount payable within 10 days - - - - -	<input type="checkbox"/>
One half payable May 20th, 1926, and one half payable May 20th, 1927 - - - - -	<input type="checkbox"/>
Or payable _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Name _____

Mail Address _____

Date _____

Make cheques payable to "JUNIOUS S. MORGAN, JR., Trust Building Fund" or to "BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, Asst. Treasurer" and send same to of New York & Trust Co., 52 Wall Street, N. Y.

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Incorporated 1844

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The Seamen's Church Institute and its \$2,750,000 building fund for the Annex have been highly commended and endorsed by trade organizations of the city and state.

The New York Produce Exchange adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the Board of Managers of the New York Produce Exchange heartily endorses the highly laudable purposes of the Seamen's Church Institute and commends to the members of the Exchange engaged in shipping and transportation interests, and all others interested in the comfort, care and protection of seafaring men, this great philanthropy as one worthy of their full sympathy and support."

The Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York resolved:

"That this Chamber urges shipowners, shippers, transportation interests and all classes of business men interested in the well-being of the Port of New York to support the plan of the Institute for a new building adequate for its comprehensive and beneficent work."