

Twenty Aggies To Get Paid For Voyage

Maritime Academy Cadets To Take Summer Cruise

By JACK GRAEME

Would you like to take a free summer ocean cruise to foreign ports such as Dublin, Antwerp, Hamburg, Naples and Palma?

Sound like a travel agency advertisement? Well, it's not. Twenty Aggies will be taking such a trip this summer, and they will be getting paid for it at the same time. In addition, they will also be earning college credits.

They are the 17 Fish and three sophomores who chose to enter the fledgling Texas Maritime Academy, a part of the A&M College System.

After this school year, the 20 will transfer to the academy's new home at Fort Crockett in Galveston, only a few yards from the sea on which they hope to make their living. They are in a sense the pilot crew for the new academy, and they will be its first graduates.

In order for them to successfully complete their goals, they must pass a total of 160 credits, including three summer cruises to Europe, South America or the Caribbean.

Science at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, executive officer of the California Maritime Academy and superintendent of the Pennsylvania Maritime Academy. In addition, he has commanded three maritime academy training ships.

HIS PRACTICAL experience is just as impressive. He has commanded a battleship, a destroyer, a fleet oiler, a service squadron of 50 ships and was head of the Military Sea Transportation Service in the Far East.

The total number of students to be allowed to enter the academy for the foreseeable future will be about 200, Dodson said.

"In a few years, when we reach

that number of students, then I'll sort of step back and take a second look at everything, to see where we go from there," he added.

Freshmen in the Maritime Academy will continue taking their first year of college on the College Station campus, in order to take full advantage of the already-existing facilities here. Then they will take their first ocean cruise and finish their remaining three years at the Maritime Academy in Galveston.

THE CURRICULUM for maritime freshmen at A&M consists mainly of general engineering courses with a few maritime courses to whet the student's appetite for his first summer cruise. These courses include marine engineering, ship organization and operations and basic naval science.

The 20 students who have chosen the Maritime Academy at first glance seem to have nothing in common. But if you talk with them for just a few minutes, one thing does become outstandingly apparent: all share a tremendous eagerness, an attitude of absolute certainty that they have chosen exactly what they want, and that they can't wait to get to it.

Another interesting similarity is that many of their families have a seagoing background, or have had some experience with shipping.

Jack Smith, '65 from Galveston, was one of the 20 who had to change his degree aims to enter the academy, but he declares that he is definitely not sorry about it.

"I WAS IN CHEMICAL engineering previously, but I was dissatisfied with it," he said. "I've lived on the sea during the summers as a commercial fisherman and running boats, and I've also done shipyard work. I guess I've always liked the sea, and when this thing came along, I knew it was for me."

A freshman, Richard Dix, of Houston, and formerly of London, England, said that ultimately he wants to get into the field of maritime law. Even when he first entered A&M, he was interested in oceanography, and so he went into geophysics.

"I got my feeling for the sea honestly," he said. "My uncle was in the British Merchant Marine and my father was in the Royal Navy."

Don Bilancich, '65 from Kemah, was in aeronautical engineering before transferring to the maritime course. "I also came from a seagoing family," he commented. "My grandfather owned a ship-building yard in Yugoslavia before the Communists took over."

ALL OF THEM are enthused over this summer's training cruise,

which they will take on the Empire State IV, training ship of New York Maritime College, with 450 New York cadets.

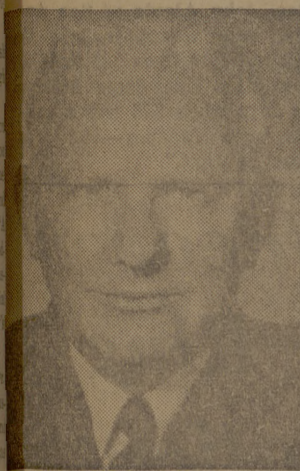
Not one of the students seems to have given a thought to seasickness, which can put a damper on any sailor's spirits for a while. Dodson commented that he had often heard of some who never get seasick at all, but get awfully sick of the sea.

From all appearances, he won't have to worry about that with his new cadets.

Cadets To Visit 'Home Port'

Texas Maritime Academy cadets will be in Galveston Saturday for an introduction to their future "home port." The cadets will make a special tour of the NS Savannah, the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, and then be guests of the Port of Galveston for a luncheon and tour of the port.

The NS Savannah will be docked at the nuclear ship service facility at Galveston, the only such facility on the Gulf of Mexico coastline. The vessel is making its first call at the facility and to any Gulf port and one of her first calls into any port.



CAPT. B. M. DOBSON

Spacemen May Get Radiation Alarm

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — An early warning system for orbiting astronauts—to alert them to scorching radiation storms caused by the sun—was unveiled Wednesday by an Air Force expert.

Maj. Osmond Ritland, one of the top officials of the service's manned spaceflight program, said about the possibilities in stressing a symposium on space medicine at Brooks Air Force base.

Declaring radioactive protons or space bullets—spewed out millions of miles by sudden flares" on the sun constitute a subtle formidable problem for spacemen, Ritland said such flares are generated by sunspots. And he added:

"It has been learned that there is an interval of about an hour between observation from earth of altered sunspot activity and arrival near earth of the fatal high-energy particles. Thus, a space vehicle on a

low earth-orbit mission might have time to re-enter the protective atmosphere of the earth."

He said the solar-proton threat is in addition to that constantly posed by the Van Allen radiation belts, which mainly extend from about 600 to 4000 miles above the earth and "appear to be highly dangerous for stays of more than, say, half an hour."

"Progress is being made in forecasting solar flare activity with sufficient accuracy to permit the scheduling of missions in periods of low solar activity," he said.

Saying the evidence points to rises and drops in sunspot activity within 11-year cycles, he declared:

"If this cyclic pattern holds true and if this radiation in fact proves serious, manned space missions of long duration beyond the Van Allen belts can perhaps be attempted in the four-year low-activity period beginning in 1963."

The students will have two separate curriculum to choose from, either marine engineering or marine transportation.

On graduation they will enter a field in which the beginning pay is about \$8,000 a year and career opportunities are abundant for either sea or land employment.

In addition, they will have no active military obligation to fulfill unless they volunteer for active Navy duty. They will receive a commission in the inactive Naval reserve as long as they are planning to serve on a ship.

AT PRESENT, there is a huge demand for well trained, well educated men in the maritime business, especially in Texas," said Capt. Bennett Dodson, superintendent of the academy.

"As a matter of fact, the other five maritime academies only graduate a total of about 500 men a year, while the demand is about 1,000 new men each year. I fear that there is going to be a serious shortage of officers within a short time."

Dodson, a smiling, friendly man, topped with a swatch of silvery hair, is well qualified to head the new academy. He has had a great deal of previous experience in teaching young men about the sea and her many moods, as head of the Department of Nautical

TMA's New Home Nears Completion At Galveston Site

Construction work on the old Ft. Crockett at Galveston is nearing completion, Capt. Bennett M. Dodson, superintendent of the Texas Maritime Academy, said.

Ft. Crockett will be the home of the TMA when classes begin next September. The final three years of instruction will be completed there while the freshman year will continue to be spent on this campus.

According to Capt. Dodson, a new roof has been placed on the fort and painting of the structure will begin next month. In March, air-conditioning and insulation processes and construction of dormitory rooms will begin.

Aggie Juniors and Seniors Start composing your letters for my Semi-Annual letter writing contest. Subject: "Why I Think Every Aggie Should Own Some Life Insurance." CASH PRIZES. Judges will be Bryan-College Station Jaycees. Deadline: March 2, 1963.

Bernie Lemmons, '52 VI 6-5800 - VI 6-6758

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May graduates may begin ordering their graduation invitations starting February 18 thru February 28th, from 9-4, Monday-Friday, at the Cashier's Window, Memorial Student Center. 56117

The New York Mets have 13 infielders on their roster and seven of them play second base.

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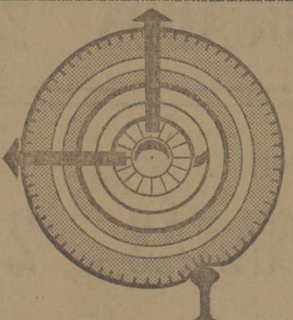
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