The LOOKOUT



SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

VOL. XXVII.—NO. I

JANUARY, 1936

THIS MONTH'S COVER is a reproduction of a photograph of the U. S. S. "PORTSMOUTH," loaned by Mr. Louis S. Tiemann. She was a first class sloop of war, built at Portsmouth, N. H. and launched in 1843 (the same year in which the Institute's original floating chapel was built). From 1895 to 1912 she was used as a training ship for the New Jersey Naval Reserve, under command of Captain Edward McClure Peters. Except for an interval during the Spanish-American war the Portsmouth made regular cruises each summer. She was the last known ship to enter New York harbor through the Narrows under her own sail. In 1915 she was stricken from the Naval Register. This picture shows her at anchor in the "Horse Shoe" (inside of Sandy Hook) about 1906.

LOOKOUT:

VOL. XXVII, JANUARY, 1986 PUBLISHED MONTHLY

by the

SEAMEN'S CHURCH

INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK 25 SOUTH ST., NEW YORK, N. Y

Telephone BOwling Green 9-2710

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FRANK T. WARBURTON Secretary-Treasurer

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MARJORIE DENT CANDEE Editor, THE LOOKOUT

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Make all checks payable to the order of "SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK" and mail to 25 South Street, New York, N. Y.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

We have made this issue of THE LOOKOUT as far as possible a seamen's number; the articles, poems, stories and most of the illustrations have been contributed by merchant seamen.

LEGACIES TO THE INSTITUTE

You are asked to remember this Institute in your will, that it may properly carry on its important work for seamen. While it is advisable to consult your lawyer as to the drawing of your will, we submit nevertheless the following as a clause that may be used:

I give and bequeath to "Seamen's Church Institute Of New York," incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, located at 25 South Street, New York City, the sum of

Dollars.

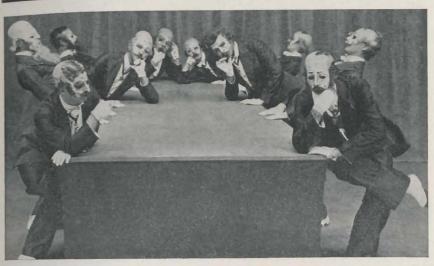
Note that the words "Of New York" are a part of our title.

The Lookout

VOL. XXVII

JANUARY, 1936

No. I



A Scene from "The Green Table"

The First and Only Announced Performance in New York of the

Jooss European Ballet

Featuring

"The Green Table", "The Big City" and "A Ball in Old Vienna"

Tuesday Evening, January 21, 1936

at the Metropolitan Opera House

for the benefit of the

Seamen's Church Institute of New York

Tickets from \$1.00 to \$5.00 and Boxes from \$35.00 to \$60.00 may be obtained from

MR. HARRY FORSYTH, Chairman, Benefit Committee 25 South Street, New York, N. Y., BOwling Green 9-2710

Please make checks payable to: "SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK", and mail to Benefit Committee, 25 South Street, New York, N. Y.

CHRISTMAS AT THE INSTITUTE

By Seaman Henry William Fishburn



Photo by Paul Parker

In Line For The Holiday Feast

was one of the 1,025 seamen who spent Christmas Day at 25 South Street. I am very glad to have this chance to tell LOOKOUT readers about the wonderful Christmas I had at the *Institute*. I arrived from the West Coast (by freight train) on Christmas Eve and got a job unloading a produce truck in Washington market, for which I received half a dollar. I was anxious to get down to the Institute and wish Mr. Kelley and Mr. Westerman and Mrs. Roper "Merry Christmas", and so I came down and bought a dormitory bed on the 13th floor. I turned in early and on Christmas morning got up at six a.m. and at nine o'clock went to the communion service in the Chapel. At 10:30 I attended the regular service and those Christmas hymns sure did sound nice.

As soon as church was out I've spent at sea (one yet (11:25) I hurried down to the cafeteria to get in line for the Christmas dinner. (This happens to be the third year in succession that I've eaten my holiday dinner with my friends here at 25 South). I've spent at sea (one yet cold beans when the sto barge went out of commit best ones have always that I speak for hundred fellows when I say that.

There were about 40 seamen ahead of me in line. and at 11:30 the doors opened. We had a fine dinner: mashed turnips, potatoes, turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, pumpkin and mince pie, bread and butter, tea or coffee, and as we went out Mr. Kelley's young daughters gave each of us our choice of cigarettes, cigars or tobacco. I chose a package of Lucky Strikes. At two-thirty I joined the crowd of seamen who saw the movie

"The Crusades" in the auditorium (about 775 of us) and in the evening I enjoyed the picture "Shipmates Forever" (along with 825 other seamen). At nine-thirty I turned in, for I wanted to be up early on the day after Christmas to go over to the American Export Line to look for a job. My last ship was the "Exarch"; I was paid off on her Oct. 16th and then went to the west coast, but I'm sure glad to be back. I've been going to sea for thirteen years, usually as a messman or as an O.S. (ordinary seaman) and since my father and mother are dead I think of the S.C.I. as my home. I used to know Superintendent Kelley when he was at the S.C.I. of Los Angeles at San Pedro and it's swell to have him here in New York. now. When I think back and remember some of the Christmases I've spent at sea (one year we had cold beans when the stove on the barge went out of commission) the best ones have always been right here at 25 South Street, and I know that I speak for hundreds of other

JANUARY

FLEGY FOR A DYING TONGUE

By Seaman C. B. W. Richardson*

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SONG FEST



Dear Editor: Enclosed find a little news in regards to our song fest. I enjoy it so much myself, I thought perhaps you will publish it in order that others will know the feelings of many men who appreciate the good being done by this Institute. I have went to sea many years, been nearly all over the world, but have failed to see any place as a seamen's home like the Seamen's Church Institute of N. Y.

Yours respectfully (Signed) Chas. Eichberg

JERE at the Seamen's Church Institute of N. Y. on every Thursday evening we have a song fest in the third floor reading-room attended by many seamen who enjoy the singing of old time songs of their own selection. These "Song Fests" are conducted by the Rev. David McDonald, our Chaplain, Mr. Baker, soloist, Mrs. Janet Roper, are among friends here at the Insti-Miss Conrow the chapel organist, tute, who want to help them to and some of the staff who try to "carry on" to success and happiness. make these evenings enjoyable for May this good work carry on!

the men. Mr. Baker leads the men in song, at times bringing them out fully, all singing.

Our Chaplain, whose untiring efforts for the welfare of the seamen, visiting the sick and afflicted in the hospitals, through his good fellowship has endeared himself to the hearts of these men. Mrs. Janet Roper our beloved House Mother, who has devoted many years to the welfare of seamen gives a short address, encouraging the men to "carry on," during these distressing times of depression and unrest. These "Song Fests" encourage many, put cheer in their hearts, make them look forward to better things in life, make them feel they



Picture taken on board S.S. Trimountain by Seaman Alfred P. Larsson

FOR 100 years the Institute has helped merchant seamen to help themselves by providing them with a clean, decent shore home, at minimum cost, with wholesome activities and congenial recreation. Bonafide seamen are always welcome to use the various facilities regardless of their race, rating or creed.

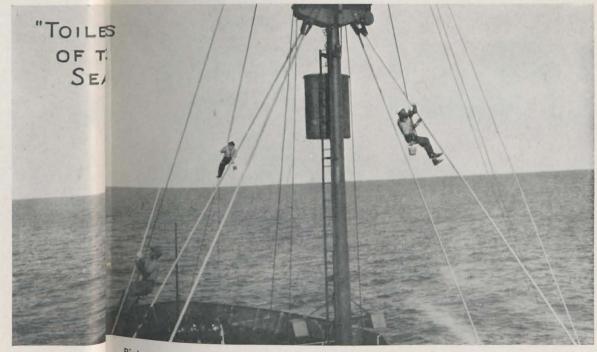
TO maintain this important work along the waterfront requires a yearly expenditure of \$100,000, which is the deficit in the budget between what the seamen pay and what the services actually cost. We do not and cannot charge for religious, social service, recreational, or educational facilities.

B ECAUSE these men of the sea protect you and yours on the high seas, will you send something to help the Institute befriend them while on land?

Kindly send contributions to: SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTE OF NEW YORK, 25 South Street, New York, N. Y.

SIGNAL flags fluttering atop the roof of the SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK spell "Welcome Home" to ships entering New York Harbor and to the thousands of merchant seamen aboard.

CREWS of ocean liners, freighters, tankers, tugs, colliers, barges, all know that shore leave in New York is happier and safer because of the hospitality at 25 South Street, the hostelry of the seven seas. Speed records and artistic decorations win for a ship a fine reputation, but it is the indispensable man-power that keeps her sailing from port to port safely and securely. Just so, it is the Institute that keeps the ships' crews on even keel, while ashore, and protects their interests against the subversive and other evil forces of the waterfront ever ready to exploit seamen.



Picture taken on board S.S. Carrabutte by Seaman Alfred P. Larsson

West Australia.

Dear Mrs. Baxter,*

It is a long time since we were in New York, and we have not been home vet.

Next Christmas will be our third in succession away from home.

We have travelled about a good deal since we were at New York last mainly round about Australia and the Far East. After New York (Feb. 1934) we went back to Calcutta with a cargo of general. Then from Calcutta we went to Buenos Aires and ports round about, with jute and gunnies. From there light ship to Nauru, via the Magellan Straits. Nauru is a small island situated nearly on the Equator and is very rich in phosphate, which is being constantly shipped to Australia for making land fertilizer. The phosphate we took to Adelaide, South Australia, and then we went round to Sydney, N.S.W. and loaded wheat for Shanghai.

From there we went down to Nauru again and loaded another



Photo by Elsie Jansen Putting Chafing Gear on Stay

cargo of phosphate, this time for New Zealand ports.

From New Zealand we went back to another small phosphate island called Ocean Island, which is just a few miles away from Nauru.

This phosphate we took to Adelaide. Then we went to a small place not far from Adelaide called Whyalla and loaded iron ore, a horrid cargo, for a small port, Kamaishi, in Japan. After repairs in Yokohama we went to Calcutta and loaded jute and gunnies again for South American ports. At Buenos Aires we loaded a cargo of maize for Japan via the Magellan and San Pedro for bunkers. Then west across the Pacific, and discharged at a small place called Taketoyo, then to Yokohama to drydock.

Then down to Nauru again, where by a special moving belt contraption they load a ship in 12 hours, and we have brought the phosphate here. Part of it, however, is going to Geraldton, a small port further up the coast. We are hoping to go home from here with wheat, as we are nearly two and a half years out from home now on this voyage!

You will know all about the loss of the old "Millpool" of which my Dad was skipper at the time. She went down with all hands (26) in a North Atlantic gale in October, 1934. It was a terrible affair, and although it happened a year ago I still feel the loss of poor Dad.

My brother Arthur has just got his Master's Certificate, so you may see him again soon as mate of a ship. Let's hope so.

Well. Good bye.

From Your Sincere Friend, Alan E.

(And a Japanese Christmas card enclosed with the letter)

*Letter from an apprentice on a cargo ship to Mrs. Baxter, in charge of the Institute's Apprentices' Room.

JANUARY

SAILS

To wake hunger for adventure Give a lad the sight of sail, The lap along the loading-strake And green along the rail:

Sails that drove to eastward Ships of long ago, Shine and shadow on them Till they dipt below-

(Blue beneath their beauty, Ageless blue above. Magic, mystic, stately, Seeming treasure-trove):

Whine of shroud and guy and block And groan of boom and spar, Plunge that flings her forefoot high And racks her wheel ajar:

Sails that swam to westward Till they sank below Water line and sky line, Days of long ago-

(All of bovish longing Held within a glance. All of youthful dreaming, Wonder, and romance):

Slursh of scuppered comber spilled To sluice each boarding crest, Winds abaft, abeam, ahead Across a wide unrest:

Sails that bore to southward Years and years ago, Sheeted to the sunlight, Sloping, swaving slow-

(Blue beneath their beauty, Fadeless blue above. Far-off sails out-going. Surely treasure-trove):

From kedge and hawser, berth and buoy, Range-light and sheltered bay-Cut. where the seas are hills at war Below the wild grey day:

Vanished sails of boyhood,-All have dropt below Meeting sea and sky rims-Long,-and long ago.

> By Hugh Malcolm McCormick Now a patent attorney in New Albany, Indiana but in his youth an able-bodied

AN AMBITIOUS SAILOR

NE of the most heart-warming to hear a pipe organ recital in things about working at the Institute is the frequent chance which staff members have of listening to the stories of seamen who are striving to "make good" in some one of the arts. It is a pleasure to encourage these ambitious would-be musicians, artists, sculptors, poets and authors. The most recent "confession" was that told to our chapel organist by a young sailor who wandered into the chapel one day while she was practicing the hymns for the next Sunday service. His is an extraordinary story and we wish that some interested person would help to get him a scholarship at some school of music. It seems that on his seventh birthday (he is now only seventeen) he was taken some famous teacher.

Portland, Oregon. He was fired with the ambition to play the organ. It has been his sole thought and ambition. He has heard all of the prominent organists in New York City. He has an amazingly accurate knowledge of the construction of organs, having persuaded various organists and tuners to take him into the organ chambers and explain the pipes, etc. He has read just about everything that has been written about the subject and although he does not know one note from the other, he certainly has potential ability and a will to learn. He is determined to earn enough money in the next five years at sea to enable him to take lessons from

SEAMEN HAVE CHANGED

By Seaman Frank A. Heagney



Courtesy, Cunard Line. QUARTERMASTER

Just as in the days when he manned the helm on the poop, the quartermaster still stands "the watch" at the wheel.

M ANY years ago, seamen, men who went down to the sea, in sailing ships, were quite a different type of men from those who sail our modern steamships. They were more or less a coarse and more hardboiled lot, compared with a modern seamen; due to the fact that the work aboard a sailing ship was much harder, and the days spent at sea much longer. After a trip of say seventy or eighty days or more on a ship, seeing nothing but sky and water, and talking to the same people day in and day out, and missing every natural thing that life gives, one shouldn't wonder why these men should be pictured as they are in our sea stories today. Most of these old-timers' sea-going days are over-we still have a few who still try to sail-but there are not very many of them. But to get back to the topic of this article, if you would stroll down around the water front of any of our great seaports you will most probably see men, lounging around the piers or lying on the sidewalks, drunk, and because the average person knows nothing about these men, but thinks because they are down on the water-

famous seamen's pants (Dungarees) that they must be seamen, and you will undoubtedly hear these people say: "What did I tell you, look at those sailors drunk." And again you will be up town in the business district of the same city and a fellow will come up along side of you and put the well known bum on you telling you: "Mister could you please help me out, I'm a seaman and I have not a place to sleep at?" But if you knew the real seamen, you would tell the fellow to get a new line, because he is a fake. I have made a study of our seamen for a good many years.

If you will be kind enough to permit me to tell you, that it's about time for someone to write the true side of most of our Merchant Seamen today. Most of these men who make their living following the sea today, are nice clean-cut fellows. Let's take a short trip in one of these ships we shall, let us say, go on board the S/S Sam Doe, When we are all aboard, and quartered: the ship leaves its berth, on a two day run, to its next port of call to pick up some cargo; once outside the breakwater, you will watch the deck sailors, stowing away the lines etc. Then we will take a look in at the men in their forecastles, after they have finished their work. Just as we enter the door, if you will look around you will see the bunks two high, with nice clean white linen and the bunks made up deluxe. If you will look a little closer, at the bulkhead (or walls) by the bunks you will see a stand built with a picture of the men's mothers or sisters upon it. And looking at the deck you will see neat rows of shoes, bedroom slippers etc. All front, wearing a pair of the world neatly arranged. If you should look

in these men's closets you would see pajamas and bathrobes, and everything that you would expect in your own home, and I am not exaggerating one bit when I say the modern seamen take at least two baths a day, (of course water is plentiful now aboard these ships as they have large tanks aboard). If you were to listen in on some of the conversations in the forecastle you would probably hear talk that you would never beabout the best shows, reviews of the country to country.

best books, and political discussions, and you may sit there and listen to these men, and I doubt if you will hear any language that would make a lady rush out of the room. The radio is generally playing all the time, it has helped to modernize our seamen a lot; speeches from some of our best politicians and orators are generally always listened to the most. I have endeavored to tell you the truth about these good fellows, lieve could come from sailors, talk the men who sail our cargoes from

SEA CHANTEYS-MOTHER'S LULLABY

IN response to numerous inquiries as to where sheet music of the sea chanteys might be purchased, we publish here a list of music firms which have available these chanteys, arranged in four-part male quartet form by Pauline Winslow. The Institute receives a royalty on all copies sold. The sheet music sells for \$.15 for each chantey: G. Schirmer, 3 East 43rd Street, New York City, publishes: "As Off To The South'ard We Go", "Adieu to Maimuna", "Eight Bells", "Blow the Man Down" and "Homeward Bound." Harold Flammer, 10 East 43rd Street, New York City, publishes: "Hoodah Day" and "Rolling Home." Galaxy Press, 17 East 46th Street, publishes "Hame, Dearie Hame." Other chanteys will be published in the near future.

The phonograph record of the sea chanteys is not for sale, but may be rented for \$10.00. It is a large record requiring a machine which has a turn table which can be slowed down to 33-1/3 revolutions per minute (standard sized records run at a 66-2/3 speed). It is primarily for electrical transcription on radio stations, but those who wish to run this record in their own homes may use one of the new orthophonic machines which have a slow speed, or they may rent from the Western Union Telegraph Company a Visiomatic Machine, \$1.00 for two hours.

One of the most interesting letters which arrived as the result of our announcement concerning sea chanteys in the last issue was from Mr. Harry Blythe: "I was extremely pleased to read," he wrote "that down in your part of the world some endeavor is being made to revive old time sea chanteys. I am



"25 South Street"

one of the very, very few who can claim to the honor of having a real chantey as my mother's lullaby to me, sung to me on all seas. My father was the "old man" and always took my mother and me with him, and around the Horn, before I was four years old. As I grew older and still went voyaging, I picked up all the chanteys then in vogue. I'm writing now of about 1890 onwards. Finally, when I really became a part of a full rigged ship's crew, I was (the only apprentice) privileged to start a chantey and in those days a boy was just a boy (but did a man's work) and as such had to keep his mouth shut and just obey orders. (My! how times have changed). So you see by all this, that I am really interested in sea chanteys and wish you and your Institute the best of luck in everything. P.S. I forgot to mention the lullaby was "Rolling Home to Merrie England."

BOOK REVIEWS

VICTORIOUS TROY, or THE HURRYING ANGEL

By John Masefield MacMillan Company, 1935

Price \$2.50

Storm at sea and men fighting for life and ship-no new fiction theme. But this is no common storm that would blast the Ship Hurrying Angel into a yawning sea. It is hurricane, cyclone, black thunder cannonading. It is force elemental gone mad, raging, destroying—the fires and fury and Hounds of Hell unleashed. Through 300 pages with never a chapter break it drives the reader near to exhaustion. But he has lived every fear, every dread, every torment, anger and horror of harassed men, whose valor is will to stand it through and save a crippled ship -whose leader is a boy, eighteen, defying a drunkard, incompetent captain. This lad, senior apprentice, the author has singled out to make personal every shuddering moment of that Ilian night. Troy rides conquering over her leveled walls. D. G. K.

THE LANDSMAN'S GUIDE TO SEA LORE By C. R Benstead Methuen & Co., Ltd.

Introducing himself as a sea-going landsman, the author of this surprising book twinkles, bows, and offers a courtly arm to conduct his reader through the intricacies of modern seafaring and life on a vessel of today. And the tour is both instructive and entertaining. It is a glorious mixture of fact and fancy, of technical information and amusing angles. There is also some sound advice which might well be noted by all who travel by sea. This is a book to read aloud on a sun-lit deck-assured of finding something to appeal particularly to every member of the most varied group.

M. P. M. G.

Price 6/-

SILAS CROCKETT

By Mary Ellen Chase Price \$2.50 MacMillan Company

A magnificent story of four generations of a family in a little place on the Maine Coast called Saturday Cove. Silas, Captain of a clipper ship who took his wife with him on his voyages; their son Nicholas lost at sea in a storm; and his grandson Reuben whose aspirations toward the sea took him no further than passenger steamers plying up and down the Maine Coast; his great-grandson Silas of the twentieth century who had

to leave school and go to work in a

herring-factory. . . . Miss Chase has given us a stirring tale not only of the Crocketts, but of the passing of the supremacy of sail, and the disintegration and tragedy of the coast of Maine. The steadfastness and heroism of the American character, innate stubbornness of sea-going families has been perfectly depicted in "Silas Crockett." A fascinating and inspiring novel which should be read by all lovers of good

WIND IN THE RIGGING By Howard Pease

Doubleday Doran and Co. Price \$2.00

Howard Pease has written an adventure story and throughout it has a salty tang. A murder mystery is in the background involving the smuggling of arms into Africa, a timely topic. The Institute is often mentioned and clearly shows what an important place it has in the lives of seamen. Tod Moran, the hero, a young man, promptly responds to a mysterious order from his old captain, Tom Jarvis. The author, noted for such fine sea stories as "The Jinx Ship" and "The Ship Without a Crew" has produced a lively and thrilling tale.

A. O. M.

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY

By Seaman Howard Norman

When I followed the sea for a living. I never could save up a dime. For I spent what I got, (tho it wasn't a lot.)

And what was left over was mine. For that I ate curry, and worm-eaten chow.

And slept in a populous bed. And wet to the bone, I shivered alone, Standing watch on the foc's'le head.

So I gave up the sea as a calling, And I have my decision to thank, For a job and a home, and a future to come.

Consider the things that I write that's true.

(I'm shipping out A.B. to-night!)

And a nice little wad in the bank So if you're desiring a life of success. For the things that I do, are peculiar,



Instruction in the Manly Art of Life-Saving, by Captain Robert Huntington See Merchant Marine School Statistics below

Summary of Services Rendered to Merchant Seamen by the

SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK From January 1st to December 1st, 1935

328,199 Lodgings (including relief beds).

160,516 Pieces of Baggage handled.

1.034,089 Sales at Soda-Luncheonette and Restaurant.

300,052 Sales at News Stand.

74,455 Institute Relief Meals served.

25,671 Patronized Barber, Tailor and Laundry.

11,414 Attended 270 Religious Services at Institute and U. S. Marine Hospitals.

4,211 Cadets and Seamen attended 376 Lectures in Merchant Marine School: 62 new students enrolled.

140,409 Social Service Interviews.

14,549 Relief Loans.

7,104 Individual Seamen received relief.

84,612 Books and magazines distributed.

5,482 Pieces of clothing and 1,982 Knitted Articles distributed.

496 Treated in Dental, Eve, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinics.

142,272 Attended 187 entertainments, moving pictures, athletic activities, concerts and lectures.

846 Referred to Hospitals and Clinics.

3,358 Apprentices and Cadets entertained in Apprentices' Room.

8,096 Barber, Cobbler and Tailor Relief services.

299 Missing Seamen found.

1,917 Positions procured for Seamen.

\$191,144 Deposited for 2,983 Seamen in Banks.

23,972 Used Joseph Conrad Memorial Library.

12,820 Telephone Contacts with Seamen.

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