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OCT/NOV 1980

Purpose



From its earliest days as a floating chapel to its present function as the world's largest and most comprehensive center for seafarers, the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey has been dedicated to the well being and special needs of merchant mariners of all nations entering the Port of New York and New Jersey.

The Institute operates 24 hours a day throughout the year and from its headquarters in Lower Manhattan and its Mariners' International Center in Port Newark/Port Elizabeth, N.J. reaches the 300,000 men and women who annually make port in New Jersey, Brooklyn, Staten Island and Manhattan.

Its diversified services include an

Ecumenical Port Ministry program, ship visitors, a seafarers assistance network, opportunities for maritime education, alcoholism counseling and referral, lodging, eating and recreational facilities, cultural and community programs.

A voluntary agency of the Episcopal Church, the Institute has traditionally served active merchant seafarers of all faiths. Although 76% of its current operating budget is earned from its revenue producing services, it is dependent on grants, corporate and personal contributions to maintain its non-income producing services and programs for seamen. All gifts are tax-deductible.



COVER PHOTOS COURTESY THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. 71 No. 6 • OCT/NOV 1980 \Box Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey \Box 15 State Street, New York, N.Y. 10004 / Telephone: (212) 269-2710 \Box The Right Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., S.T.D., D.D., Honorary President / Anthony D. Marshall, President / The Rev. James R. Whittemore, Director / Carlyle Windley, Editor \Box Published bi-monthly with exception of May and December when monthly. Contributions to the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey of \$5.00 or more include a year's subscription to The Lookout. Single copies 50¢. Additional postage for Canada, Latin America, Spain, \$1.00; other foreign, \$3.00. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

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New York Harbor Ablaze With Sails for 7th Annual Governor's Cup Race — September 6th.



Not since the Tall Ships in '76, have so many sailing vessels filled the New York harbor. One hundred and forty-two strong they set forth on September 6 from waters off Battery Park headed for buoys beyond the Verrazano Bridge, northeast to Gravesend Bay and back to starting point to complete the 16 mile course.

City fireboats gushing geysers of water gave additional color to the event and the spic and span Moran tugboat, the *Miriam Moran*, nattily dressed-out for the occasion, served as the press boat for the day.

Sponsored by the Seamen's Bank for Savings, the Seamen's Church Institute and Battery Park City Authority together with the Gateway Yacht Racing Association comprised of the Deep Creek, Miramar and Sheepshead Bay Yacht Clubs and the Norton Point Sailing Club, the race promotes sailing, highlights the importance of the New York Harbor and provides residents and visitors with the City's major annual maritime event.

Following the race, the winners' reception was held at the Institute where, surrounded by hundreds of cheering sailors, Stephen H. Rice, executive vice president of Seamen's Bank presented the winners' silver. In addition to providing 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for the various divisions, Seamen's Bank for Savings also provided the permanent Governor's Cup.



PHOTOS BY JON ELLIS AND FAYE ARGENTINE



First place winners by division were. Div. A. Leilani skippered by William Frank of Brooklyn; Div. B. Half Moon skippered by Rolf Druskat of Wappinger Falls, N.Y.; Div. C. Piper skippered by Lou Chumbres of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; Div. D. Frodo skippered by Terrance Edwards of Wappinger Falls, N.Y.; Div. E. Charrette skippered by Stuart Markowitz of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Div. F. Bora skippered by Henry Bracco of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Div. G. Warlock II skippered by Stephen DeLise of West Islip, N.Y.; Div. H. Brisk Living skippered by James Lipscomb of Tarrytown, N.Y.; Div. I. Raindance skippered by Anthony Padula and Robert Monro of Bayside, N.Y.; Div. J. Tobasco skippered by Robert Aron of New York City.



Three of the race's sponsors (I to r) Stephen H. Rice, E. Virgil Conway and James R. Whittemore watch attentively as this year's Governor's Cup gets underway.

Mr. Conway is the president and chairman of The Seamen's Bank for Savings, Mr. Rice is its executive vice president and the Reverend Whittemore is the director of the Seamen's Church Institute.











PHOTOS BY JON ELLIS AND FAYE ARGENTINE

Soccer Week A Great Success



Following the International Soccer week for Seafarers held at the Institute's Mariners' International Center in Pt. Newark, N.J., Alan Sagner, Chairman of the Port Authority of N.Y. & N.J. congratulated the winning team of the Vera Cruz and presented the winner's plaque to the vessel's captain, Jens Thorn.

Also participating in the presentation ceremonies was The Honorable Brendan T. Byrne, Governor of the State of New Jersey.

The Soccer competition was part of the port's Harbor Festival week and teams from Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Denmark, Greece, Norway, Panama and Spain played 19 matches to determine the winner. Trophies for the tournament's 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners were donated by Brooklyn Union Gas and the weeks proceedings were jointly sponsored by the Seamen's House "Y" of New York, The Norwegian Government Seamen's Service and the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey. Dan Ruderman of the Seamen's House "Y" coordinated the event.



Mr. Sagner

Capt. Thorn

Governor Byrne

Jerry Fitzgerald English

On Pluralism and the Independent Sector

by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY)

Senator Moynihan gave this speech in Washington on March 5, 1980 when he addressed the charter meeting of INDEPENDENT SECTOR, a new organization formed by the Merger of the Coalition of National Voluntary Organizations and the National Council of Philanthropy.

If anything exhibits the energy of the private sector over the past year and a half, it's that a common sense of purpose and condition has emerged from the most disparate enterprises, from the American Theatre Association to the Audubon Society.

I think it would be useful to speak a little to the large issue of social policy that are involved in what each of you is doing individually and, most importantly now, in a group. We are dealing with a resolution that come out of the American and British encounter with two primal ideas of the 19th century that have caused much sorrow in our own. On the one hand, there grew up in the 19th century the stern notion that there ought to be no public or common provision of any kind, that individuals are on their own. Some get plenty and some get none and that's the way the species evolves. There was a lot of seeming support in science for unregulated individualism and for what came to be known as the doctrine of laissez-faire. But there also arose the idea of the all-encompassing and, in some of its perversities, the totalitarian state.

These two incompatible and, in terms of human experience, almost unrecognizable sets of ideas still grip much of the world. In the jungles of Cambodia and in the farthest reaches of Africa and Latin America you'll find one extreme or the other still wreaking its sayage toll.

But, out of recognition that this is not the way people should live, there arose the notion of the independent sector, of mediating institutions — the Red Cross in war and the Audubon Society in peace. the Theatre Association, the Community Chest, the foundling hospitals, the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital, Columbia Presbyterian. This kind of mediating institution began to be something characteristically associated with British and with American life and had a reputation, a point of view, that has somehow begun to get lost. It was put forth as an alternative to the all-powerful market or the all-powerful state, and, in its heyday, it was powerful in its own right. Professor Calvin Woodard of the University of Virginia came up with a rather remarkable set of calculations for the year 1871: He found that the budget of the British Navy that year was nine million pounds, whilst that same year the private charities of London dispersed eight million pounds. It was already the perception even at the height of Herbert Spencer's social statics that a state monopoly of humanitarian activities was not the way to organize society.

If you recall, the first great reaction in this country to the imbalance that these opposing ideas

Since its founding in 1834, the Institute has always operated as an independent, voluntary, social service agency for seafarers of all nations. Thus, we find this speech by Senator Patrick Moynihan of particular interest and print it for your consideration.

could bring about was concern about monopoly in private economic affairs. It was a concern that dominated half a century of our nation's life. Just a few weeks before he was inaugurated as President in 1912, Woodrow Wilson said, "If I did not believe that monopoly could be restrained and destroyed, I would not believe that liberty could be recovered in the United States, and I know that the processes of liberty are the processes of life." Wilson was indulging in a bit more hyperbole than he was normally given to. Liberty did not have to be recovered in the United States; it had not entirely vanished in 1912.

It is important, remember, that the monopoly he spoke about was that of the private sector. He saw that something of ultimate consequence was at stake—liberty. Indeed, the public life of Wilson's time was absorbed with the fear and detestation of private monopoly. Great chunks of social and political energies were consumed in devising strategies for controlling it. While this was not always an easy undertaking in the practical applied sense, it wasn't a very difficult one in the conceptual sense—you could always pass a law. You could create in the public sector the institutions you wished to provide as a counterbalance to the private sector.

In that manner, step by step, the public sector began to grow — first, to keep the private sector from monopolizing power, and then to acquire a dynamic of its own.

I think many of you will remember reading Joseph Schumpeter's last great book in 1948 in which he said how this wonderfully creative civilization which we have produced in North American and Western Europe is going to come to an end — not at some great Armageddon in which one class takes over another class and destroys all classes, but rather through the slow but steady conquest of the private sector by the public sector.

There is nowhere that this is more evident and more advanced than in the non-government enterprises of public concern. Little by little, you are being squeezed out of existence or slowly absorbed. The issue of your survival is as important today as the issue of private monopoly was in 1912. It's our job to make it understood as such.

I had not fully understood the depth of the state's animosity toward your very existence until three years ago. Senator Packwood and I introduced legislation that would provide a measure of tax aid to persons who send their children to non-government schools. Fifteen years ago, it would not have been thought such a horrible idea. In 1964, when John



Gardner was the Secretary of HEW, the Democratic platform called for this kind of assistance. In response, a major government program to aid elementary and secondary schools was born. It was said (these are the political facts) that this aid would be distributed all across the spectrum from the private to the government schools.

But in reality, it turned out that only government schools got it and once they got it, they wanted more, and as they wanted more, they wanted others to have less. An institutional dynamic took place, in which people of the most gentle mien and benevolent disposition set out to destroy these competitors because they could not control them.

"Destroy" is not too strong a term. You should have heard the language used, the insinuations made, above all, the ultimate insinuation of a statist tendency which says, "These institutions are un-American. They are non-governmental." You have to have experienced that to know that this is a dynamic that arises quite apart from the individual intentions of those concerned. Institutional interests take hold and they command.

Now we are involved in exactly the same things. Bob Packwood and I, and on the House side our friends and your colleagues Barber Conable and Joe Fisher, have set out to provide a means to revive charitable contributions by allowing them to be deducted "above the line" as they say on the income tax. What is involved fundamentally is the continued participation of a large portion of the American public in the support of non-government institutions — in the support of the Salvation Army, in the support of the American Cancer Society. We will always have corporations supporting them, as we will have persons supporting them who have accountants do their income tax. The upper five percent will continue to support them as long as the tax laws make it profitable.

But if you once lose the habit of support which de Tocqueville commented upon, you will have lost a fundamental component of the American democracy and of our society. I'm telling you there are institutions in this city that desire that you should. Just you wait and see how the government, the administration, the institutions around this town respond to our legislation. They will do everything they can to oppose it and destroy it and that's why it must succeed.

Private institutions really aren't private anymore. Many are primarily supplied by government funds. Their private leadership is nominal, their fund raising scarcely exists. And on the edges, it is thought to be inappropriate. As a matter of fact, the tipping As most of you know, Senator Moynihan and Senator Robert Packwood (R-OR) are sponsors of Charitable Contributions Legislation, S-219 which authorizes taxpayers to deduct charitable contributions regardless of whether they also take the standard deduction.

point comes when it is clear that the government would prefer that they didn't get any money which isn't governmental because it's not controlled.

Now, that's happening here. Think of your own institutions and how much money you now get from public sources. I talked the other day with the head of Catholic Charities, the national organization, who reported that last year something momentous happened. For the first time, more than 50 percent of its budget came from government. In time, there cannot be any outcome to that encroachment save governmental control.

We have two possibilities: One is the disappearance of the independent sector, or — just as powerful a possibility — its subversion, so that it only appears to continue. And in fact, this day is upon us. We don't want that and we don't have to have it. There are people in this government who feel just as strongly as you do, especially, I think, in the Congress. Secondly, the time has come to insist that the Federal Government not take away your opportunity to exist through private contributions. Else it will surely do so. The most forward-looking attitudes somehow transmute when they get to Washington.

Have you all heard of the idea of tax expenditures? Do you know you're a tax expenditure? And that every dollar that is deducted through a contribution to United Way is a tax expenditure? It seemed like a good idea to discover what the rich were getting away with, but it slowly transmuted. It took a long time, about eight years if I count right, between the idea of "Let's note what the tax expenditures are" (namely, monies that are not paid in taxes by individuals because they're used for other things), to the idea only now surfacing that the government owns your income and permits you to retain a certain amount. That's the real tax expenditure — what you are allowed to keep.

Well, if you're allowed to keep it, then it wasn't yours in the first place, was it? It belongs to the state. The state will consume it if we don't fight back. We have the people with us. They don't know this is happening. Your job is to make them know. Your job is to make Congress pass that legislation. Your job is to assert that something of the most profound concern to American society is at issue, and that is our tradition of plural, democratic society. It would be the final irony if, in the name of good purposes, government ended up destroying liberty in the society. But that can happen, and it is your job to make certain that it doesn't happen.

Reprinted from Channels Vol. 32 No. 4

A Selection of A-1 Clipper Ship Cards

by Wendy Shadwell



In the mid-nineteenth century newspaper advertisements were small repetitive boxes of set type with rarely an illustration. To call attention to their vessels and to attract customers. shipping lines started issuing colorful cards in about 1852 advertising sailings of their clipper ships. The cards generally measured about 61/2" × 4" and were distributed throughout the downtown waterfront area. The main image on the card usually illustrated the ship or the object, person, or characteristic after which the vessel was named. The text gave information such as the name of the shipping line, agent, pier, and occasionally a sailing date, and a sales pitch such as "Magnificent!" "Celebrated!" "Ever Popular!" "Sharpest Clipper Loading!". Clippers were small, speedy vessels that could be loaded quickly and make a westbound trip to San Francisco in about one hundred days. Their cargo rates were consequently much higher than those of conventional vessels whose time for the same journey averaged three hundred days.

Every card discussed in this article was printed by George F. Nesbitt & Co. whose stationery and printing firm was located in the maritime area of New York City from 1832-1912. All illustrations are courtesy of The New-York Historical Society and are representative of the one hundred such cards in its collection.





The famous Sauk Indian Chief, Black Hawk (1767-1838), gave his name to a clipper ship built in the East River, New York, shipyard of William H. Webb in 1857. The 108 day passage from New York to San Francisco claimed on this card cannot be substantiated but the Black Hawk did accomplish the run in 107 days in 1861. Seth Doane, shown here as the master, commanded the vessel from 1862-67.

The designer of this colorful and amusing card selected the lion episode from Cervantes' classic work to tout an upcoming sailing of the *Don Quixote*. An analogy between Don Quixote's mastery over the lion and the vessel's superiority over the wild seas was doubtless supposed to occur to potential passengers or shippers. Captain William Nott, who oversaw construction of the vessel in Massachusetts in 1853, commanded her, and finally purchased her in 1864, said she was as good as she was beautiful. On one voyage in 1863 the *Don Quixote* picked up over six hundred Chinese passengers from shipwrecks in the Formosa-Japan area.







A portrait of the Italian patriot, Giuseppe Garibaldi (1807-1882), is the focal point of this card. Garibaldi's shirt and hat are red, the letters of his name green, white, and red on a gold ribbon. The choice of Garibaldi's name for an American clipper ship can be explained by his connection with merchant shipping and the Sardinian navy and his residence on Staten Island, New York, from 1850 to 1853. He became an international symbol for freedom and patriotism after his brilliant victories in the Piedmonte and Sicily in 1859 and 1860.

The Gov. Morton, launched in 1851, was named after Marcus Morton, governor of Massachusetts in 1840-41 and 1843-44. He was a descendent of an old Plymouth family, hence the images on the card of Plymouth Rock, pilgrims, the *Mayflower*, etc. This card dates from 1863 or later as the complete rebuilding of the vessel referred to in the text occurred that year in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The *Gov. Morton* was struck by lightning and burned in the Mississippi River in 1877.

E.M. Robinson of New Bedford named his clipper Mary Robinson, doubtless after his wife, daughter, or other female relatives. Her best run to San Francisco was 115 days under Captain McCleave in 1864. Later that same year she sank after being severely damaged by a squall while loading guano at Howland Island in the Pacific.

5.

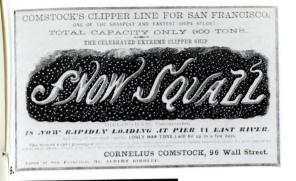
The Majority of the Snow Squall's voyages were between New York and the Far East. On these runs she recorded some very fine passages. This card advertises one of the four trips she made from New York to San Francisco between 1851 and 1864. Her speed and agility and the determination of her master, James S. Dillingham, Jr., saved her from seizure by the Confederate privateer, Tuscaloosa, in 1863 while en route from Penang, Malaya, to New York.

The Syren suffered a myriad of catastrophes in her years on the high seas - collisions, lightning, running aground, wind damage from storms - and yet she survived until 1920 as the *Margarida* of Buenos Aires, the longest-lived of the old clipper fleet. This card dates from 1861-63 when Captain Green was her skipper. 120 days was her best run to San Francisco; she was frequently beset by calms or by abnormally heavy weather off Cape Horn.

The White Swallow was one of six new clippers launched on March 25 and 26, 1853, from Massachusetts shipyards. She was regarded as one of the most beautiful, neat, trim, and best-proportioned vessels ever seen at the port of San Francisco. Her figurehead was a woman in white with outstretched wings. This card advertises the White Swallow's only voyage commanded by John Bunker in about 1862. She set her 112 day record to San Francisco in 1860 under Captain Freeman Crosby, Jr.

The Wizard King was built in Richmond, Maine, in 1854 by T.J. Southard and was owned by the builder. By 1857 she was in the Australian service, and in 1863 she was sold to go under the British flag. It can be noted on this card that the name of the captain is omitted and that the pier number was changed from the printed 11 to handwritten 15.

WENDY SHADWELL is Curator of Prints at The New-York Historical Society









Seminarian Reports on Summer's Work at SCI

In the summer of 1980, the Seamen's Church Institute launched a seminary internship program — a first step towards what promises to be a comprehensive emphasis at SCI on theological education for ministry in the world.

With a grant for the program from Trinity Church, Manhattan we interviewed students from several area seminaries — Catholic and Protestant — and ultimately employed two men who performed devoted and competent service.

Joel Ireland of General Seminary here reports on some of his activities and theological reflections.



The Reverend Anath Jackson

One of the requirements which General Theological Seminary asks of its students in field placement positions is that the seminarian reflect on the work he is doing and ask himself some fundamental questions concerning his work as a Christian witness. As I worked at The Seamen's Church Institute this summer, I had to ask myself whether my job was an appropriate ministry? If so, was I able to become a part of it and share in its attempt to follow God's will?

As I pondered these questions, a passage from St. Luke leapt from whatever recess of my mind stores my first year of seminary:

And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?' "In that hour he cured many of diseases and plagues and evil spirits and on many that were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them." Luke 7:20-22

The pattern of Jesus' ministry as St. Luke remembers it is clear. The welfare of the outcast and those dependent on others is the initial concern, and in that and following that, the good news is preached to the 'poor' (the RSV's translation of a Greek word meaning 'those dependent on others for support'). I am not able to describe better the sort of ministry S.C.I. does. It gives welcome to the seafarer, most of whom are from Third World countries, in what would otherwise be desolate and hostile port. (Have you ever been to Port Newark/Elizabeth or in Red Hook, Brooklyn after dark?)

The Seamen's Church Institute's Merchant Marine School helps seamen to advance within the ranks. It tends the sick at the Public Health Service Hospital on Staten Island, and, when necessary, S.C.I. becomes an advocate, working for seamen who are being treated badly by their captain or company. (I could hardly believe that seamen, especially Third World seamen, are still crimped and shanghaied.) At the Institute the outcast is welcomed, the unskilled are educated, the sick are visited, the powerless have an advocate, the good news is preached!



The Reverend Joel Ireland

It was our good fortune, Fr. Jackson's and mine, to be invited to share in S.C.I.'s ministry this summer. And S.C.I. did give us an active share! For a month Fr. Jackson and I were prepared for and introduced to the workings of S.C.I. by the ever-patient staff of the ship visiting department, the hospital chaplain, and by a series of Wednesday afternoon 'brown bag' forums. We were then sent out into the hospital and onto the ships. At this time, the Wednesday forums became seminars which dealt with the theological issues involved in the mission of S.C.I. to the maritime industry. This was an excellent opportunity for Fr. Jackson and me and many of the staff at S.C.I. to reflect on our work as Christians while we pursued our various tasks.

It would be impossible to recount our summer experience. I hope that a few examples will suffice to give an indication of the variety and richness of the work in which Fr. Jackson and I were involved.

While Fr. Jackson, who is from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, concentrated on hospital work, he also had a unique opportunity to act as a chaplain to the crew of the *Veracruz*. This passenger ship was in dry dock for engine repairs for a good part of the summer and Fr. Jackson was able to bring some cheer to an otherwise demoralized Jamaican crew.

My area of concentration this summer was ship visiting. In July, two cases came to me in which seamen needed help in retrieving money owed to them by their captain or company.

On Thursday, July 17, Walter Ordiz arrived at the Institute's Mariners' International Center in Port Newark seeking help to assure that his captain would pay him the proper bonus and vacation pay when Walter signed off his ship to fly home the next day. There was, apparently, some question that the captain was not going to pay him in full. (Mirable dictu, it has been known to occur that the occasional captain or ship's agent has forcibly shuttled seamen out of the U.S. without proper payment.) However, when the ship's agent had heard that S.C.I. had gotten a lawyer for Able Bodied seaman Ordiz, any question of payment there might have been suddenly disappeared and Walter went home with all the money which was due him.

The very next day six seamen from a different ship came to M.I.C. These seamen, who had all fulfilled their contracts, wanted to sign off their ship and to be

flown home. However, there was a question of some money which the captain had been illegally deducting from their wages. It was fortunate that S.C.I. took up the case, for the captain, who owed these men a great deal of money, tried to have these seamen arrested and flown home where it would have been impossible for them to retrieve their money. But again, S.C.I. had obtained a lawyer who had started the proceedings to put a lien on the ship. Faced with that, the captain paid the men in full before they flew home.

In these three incidents S.C.I. was in a position to offer aid to those who otherwise might have been outcast and desolate. There is no question that this pattern of practical evangelism spreads the good news. I congratulate S.C.I. on its ministry and witness and on its mission to the Maritime Industry. I also thank them for allowing me and Fr. Jackson the opportunity to share in its work.

JOEL T. IRELAND

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct

and complete.

CARLYLE WINDLEY
Editor

Three Cheers for Volunteers

A number of the Institute volunteers are members of Retired Seniors Volunteer Program of the Community Service Society of New York. Generally known as RSVP, the program is national in scope, is sponsored by ACTION and strives to enlist on a part-time basis the volunteer services of people aged 60 or older for non-profit private and community organizations.

Volunteers work for no compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses such as transportation. For instance, here in New York City, RSVP provides accident insurance at no cost for regular volunteers while at their volunteer job and while traveling to and from work.

Recently, RSVP in N.Y.C. held a Volunteer Recognition Day and twenty of our volunteers were recognized for their services to the Institute. Each of these volunteers contributes at least four volunteer work days a month (and most far more). The certificates they received are but a symbolic token of how much their services are appreciated and we both thank them for all their help and congratulate them on their being recognized by RSVP. Those receiving certificates were: Anna Bergstrom, Sally Brunet. Helene Champlain, John Farman, Marie Griffiths, Edna Groht, Eleanor Hermida, Geraldine Keane, Mildred Koenig, Leila Lewis, Elsie Lowe, Anna Lunz, Marguerite Molloy, Christine Moody, Victoria Mutzu, William Rowan, Kathryn Roxbury, Kathleen Russell, Ethel Saunders, Lillian Schou, Pauline Seigel, Charlotte Stauff. Alice Stover and Margaret Vitucci.

Seamen's Church Institute of N.Y. and N.J. 15 State Street New York, N.Y. 10004

Address Correction Requested

BEACHCOMBER

For forty years
Springer Copeland's feet
were famous on wind-strewn sands
where he collected
the pretty things
thrown up by random seas —
starfish skeletons,
iridescent shells,
and one or two doubloons
spilled
from unremembered
pirate fingers.

But one day when a pair of sandpipers flew down the California coast in pursuit of a summer that had slipped away while they had been occupied with something else, he stood and looked at them.

After that
he gathered
washed-up pieces of old ships
and built a house on a rock
from which he watched
the cool sifting down
of quiet evenings
on the unruffled face
of the Pacific.