

Coast Guard duty — tough but rewarding



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Ed Jacques of Farmington Hills is one of the vice presidents of the Navy League (Detroit Council). He also is program chairman.

Cruise marks anniversary

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"People don't realize how important breaking that ice during the winter is, not only to keep the waterways open, but to keep the ice from building up around homes and causing damage."

Another function of the Navy League is to educate the public as to the need for seapower and the opportunity the United States has to be a great seafaring nation, Landes said.

"It is vital, for business reasons, to be looking to other parts of the world as far as trading goes," he said.

"The League also is trying to get small- to medium-sized Michigan businesses involved in defense contracting. It's a great business to take advantage of," he said.

Because of his involvement as Michigan chairman of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Landes said he doesn't have as much time now to spend with the Navy League but he does enjoy the different activities the League sponsors.

Jim Hannagan, Birmingham resident and current president of the metro Detroit chapter of the Navy League, agreed with Landes.

"I JOINED the Navy League in 1974 because I believe in the purposes of the League," Hannagan said.

"The League supports a strong naval defensive position of our country and we let the public know about these elements and how important they are to our country. It's a very patriotic group," he added.

As president of the Detroit chapter, Hannagan presides over the annual board meetings and provides steering for planning League activities.

The League also financially supports and sponsors the Sea Cadet Program which enables youngsters 12 to 18 to

participate in naval and coast guard training activities during the summer.

The organization also supports Naval and Marine Corps recruiting as well as recognizes outstanding achievements of enlisted people in the Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.

Through its councils, the Navy League also informs the public about the maritime forces by sponsoring Navy Day in October of each year and encouraging participation in Marine Corps birthday in November, the Coast Guard anniversary in August and the anniversary of the Maritime Administration in May.

By Jean Adamczak
staff writer

A career with the United States Coast Guard is not all surf, sun and fun.

Just ask any one of the 51 crew members aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Mariposa.

"It's tough work, but it's rewarding," remarked one of the crew members during a recent cruise.

"It can be a lot of fun, but it also can get really cold out on the lakes in the winter months."

Stationed at the Coast Guard's Mt. Elliott Branch in downtown Detroit, the Mariposa is a 180-foot sea-going buoy tender. The primary mission of the Mariposa and her crew is to repair and maintain 177 navigational buoys.

The area covered by the ship extends from the lower Detroit River through Lake Erie and Lake Ontario to the western entrance of the St. Lawrence River.

The seven officers and 44 enlisted men who comprise the Mariposa's crew work year-round on the ship, sweating out the summer sun and shivering in the winter gales. But, as far as the ship's captain is concerned, it's all worth it.

"It's the only way to go," said Lt. Commander Charles Beck.

A PLYMOUTH resident, Beck has been captain of the Mariposa for two years and has been a commissioned officer with the Coast Guard for 14 years.

A graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., Beck said being commander of a ship, especially a buoy tender, has always been one of his goals.

"It's what we all aspire to," he said.

Ship handling and maneuvering the ship in tight situations is what Beck likes most about his job.

"I like the challenge of trying to park a 180-foot ship in a 181-foot slot," he said.

Another aspect Beck likes about his job is meeting the different crew members assigned to his ship.

"There is always a steady influx of people, from ensigns to commanders. It certainly beats just shuffling papers at a desk," Beck said.

And the captain certainly had his share of "shuffling papers." After

graduating from the academy, Beck was stationed on the East Coast, stuck behind a desk for most of the time. This assignment in Michigan brought him further west than he had ever been, he said.

A family man with a wife and two children ages 3 and 4, Beck said the temporariness of life in the Coast Guard (his assignments last three years), does not bother him.

His wife has a Ph.D. in nursing and is teaching at the University of Michigan. Her degree enables her to find work in most cities and they work together on deciding where Beck should request his next assignment to be.

"We try to meld our two careers together," Beck said.

"I submit a 'dream sheet' to headquarters, requesting three places I would like to be placed next. My wife checks for hospitals or schools in that area where she may be able to find work, and we go from there."

When his assignment is finished in 1986, Beck may be going back to the Newport Naval War College. But for now he said he is content to be captain of the buoy tender Mariposa and happy with his career.

"I'm in this of my own volition and I'll stay in it until it ceases to be fun for me," he said.

What Beck calls "fun" is actually hard work, done regardless of the weather on the Lakes.

Due to the annual freezing of the Great Lakes, the Mariposa works two full buoy seasons. From October through December, all lighted navigational aids and many unlighted aids are withdrawn, to be set again following the spring thaw.

"We take all of the lighted aids out of the water so the ice doesn't break the lights during the winter months," said Ensign Chris Knieck.

About half of the lighted buoys are replaced with unlighted navigational aids for the winter.

The crew then takes the buoys apart, removing and replacing the lights and batteries, all on board the ship. Over the winter, the buoys are stored all over the lakes, usually at Coast Guard stations, said Knieck.

From January through March the Mariposa is on stand-by in port, breaking ice when called upon, helping to keep the shipping canals open throughout the winter.

INSIDE ANGLES

Know someone doing something notable? Let us know. Write: Inside Angles, Farmington Observer, 35203 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

LISA LUDINGTON, daughter of Cynthia Ludington of Farmington and a 1984 graduate of Farmington High School, was one of six students from Oakland County serving on the Orientation Committee for the Alma College 1985 freshman preterm. Lisa, a sophomore, plans to major in international business.

AUDRA DAHL, Brian Hickey, Lisa Kiehl, Maria Palace, Kirk Raddatz and Sheryl Wontrobaki of Farmington Hills have been accepted into the freshmen class at Oakland University for fall of 1985.

VICTORIA CARLINI, daughter of Mrs. Art Moran and Henry Carlini, has been appointed as a market analyst to the new Chrysler Corp. in Highland Park. Victoria is a graduate of Harrison High School and Michigan State University. She is working in corporate merchandising while studying for her master of arts degree from MSU.

ELIZABETH A. FITZPATRICK, a senior in the College of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame, has been named to the dean's list for academic achievement during the spring semester.

JOHN J. COLAIANNE of Farmington Hills recently attended the 29th International Convention sponsored by the Associated Locksmiths of America Inc., an international association for specialists in the field of physical security. The convention was held in Los Angeles and featured a five-day educational program plus a three-day exhibition. Colaianne, of United Locksmith Co. Inc., took the opportunity to polish his skills and update his technical knowledge in the security field by attending classes in basic business.

BOY SCOUTS from Troop 45 arrived home after two weeks of hiking, gold prospecting and burro packing in Pailmont Ranch, N.M. Highlight of the trip was making the 12,000-foot climb to the top of Mt. Baldy, the highest mountain in the Boy Scout ranch. They began at midnight to arrive on time to watch the sun come up. Troop 45 is sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Farmington.

LEO ADLER Nissan Inc. is the first Nissan dealership in a five-state region to be selected to receive the new Nissan logo in the form of a 30-foot high, 100-square-foot Nissan logo display sign, as

well as signs on the building.

HOLLY BARTON of Farmington has been named by Eastern Michigan University's Office of Financial Aid as a recipient of the University's Regents Scholarship Award. The award is \$1,500, renewable for four years, and is the most prestigious award offered by the university. Recipients must maintain a 3.5 grade point average at EMU to renew the scholarship.

GUISEPPIA DIZAZZO of Farmington Hills has received the Chancellor's Scholarship from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. The Chancellor's Scholarship is a full tuition scholarship renewable for six semesters. Guiseppina is a graduate of Mercy High School.

DAVID W. KEEN, son of David and Elizabeth Keen of Farmington Hills, has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of staff sergeant. He is a retention supervisor at the Fort Dix Training Center, N.J. Keen is a 1978 graduate of Northville High School.

DONITA BYLSKI of Farmington Hills has been awarded 1985-86 predoctoral fellowship by the U-M Rackham School of Graduate Studies. The award consists of tuition and a living stipend for 10 months. Her field of study is bioengineering.

JEFFREY MURPHY, Danielle O'Donohue, Bruce Yeager Jr., James Fadool and Kathryn Richardson graduated from Albion College. The graduates were addressed by Harold T. Shapiro, president of the University of Michigan.

DEBORAH JUNTUNEN of Farmington Hills received her BSN degree in nursing from Northern Michigan University.

SCOTT EDWIN SHAMBAUGH of Farmington Hills received a B.S. degree from Ohio State University.

WAYNE PREUETT, formerly of Farmington, has been promoted to manager of planning and analysis for the Electric Division of Nabisco Brands Inc. in New Jersey. Wayne graduated from Houghton High School but attended the Farmington School System through 10th grade. He has an associate degree from Kirtland Community College, a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and has partially completed requirements for a master's degree in marketing from Aquinas College. Wayne's parents worked in downtown Farmington. His mother, Pearl, worked at the old Farmington Bank and his father, Jim, was the manager of the A&P at the time it opened.

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