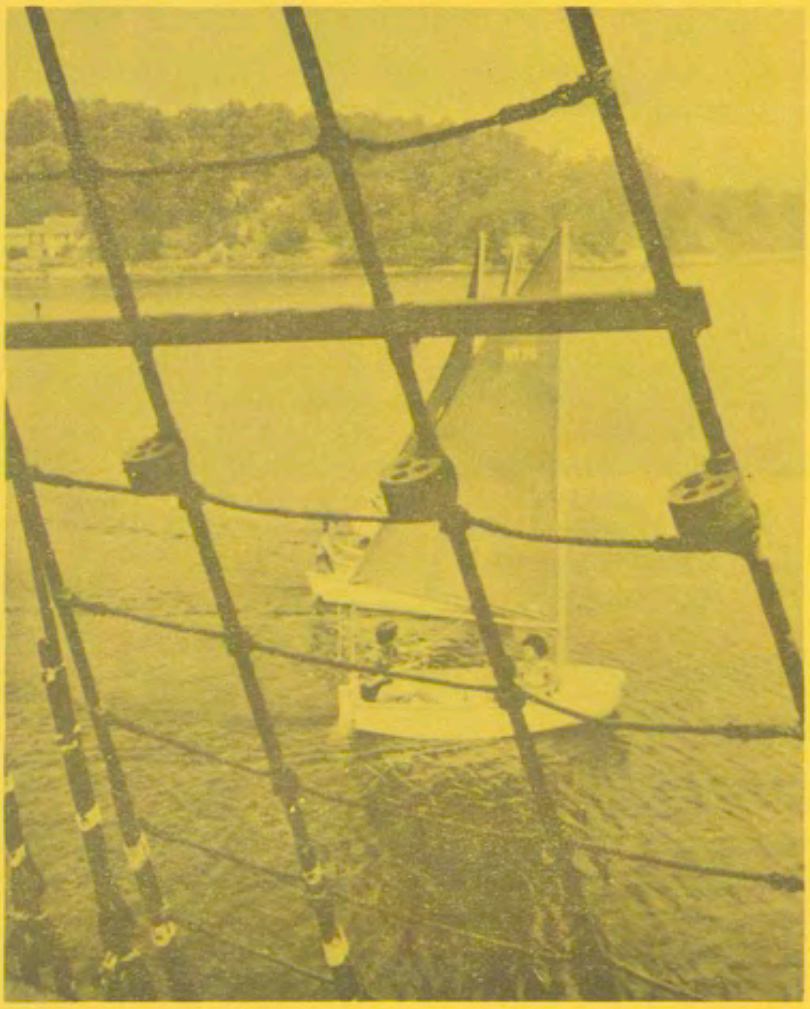
The Log



OF MYSTIC SEAPORT



PUBLISHED BY
Marine Historical Association, Inc.
Mystic . . . . Connecticut

Volume 2, No. 4 September 1950

Our Cover

Dyer dhows, now used at Mystic Seaport for sailing practice, seen through the shrouds and ratlines of the famous *Joseph Conrad*.

The 68-year-old *Conrad* has mothered the youth of many lands, this year set adrift colorful offspring in a fleet of plastic sailboats for the training of youth at Mystic Seaport. Thus she continues her own tradition of the period when she trained 4,000 boys for the Danish merchant marine, 80 at a time.

Two of those boys, Emil Porsvig and Robert W. Reinholz, recently visited Mystic Seaport. They recall that they paid 60 kroner in tuition 50 years ago in Copenhagen. If a boy could not pay the required tuition, the *Georg Stage* Foundation paid it. Many wealthy boys were taken on, but there was no discrimination nor favoritism. There was keen rivalry for acceptance and certain scholastic requirements had to be met in a preliminary examination.

Once a boy was "on", parents were not allowed to send or bring any special article of clothing or food. If they did so, they were politely asked to take it away with them again. No boy fared any differently from any other. All ate the same food, slept the same hours, performed the same work, were set the same requirements.

Trained in precision, as well as speed, they could set every sail on the ship in 1 minute, 58 seconds.

The Log



OF MYSTIC SEAPORT

Published regularly and distributed to members of
The Marine Historical Association, Inc., Mystic, Connecticut

Philip R. Mallory, *President* Carl C. Cutler, *Curator*
H. H. Kynett, *Chairman of Publications*

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Short articles of 300 words or less on subjects of museum-maritime interest are invited. Send all editorial material to the Editor.

PRINTED AT MYSTIC SEAPORT, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT

The "Morgan" Story

As many of you know, the *Morgan* was literally saved from disintegration by your Association in 1941. For nearly three years prior thereto, our good friends in "Whaling Enshrined", of New Bedford, had made every effort to raise an estimated $30,000.00 for her preservation in that city. They had not only failed to raise this minimum amount but had been forced to conclude that, in view of rising costs, any such sum would be quite insufficient. Confronted with an apparently hopeless situation, they asked us to carry on.

At the time our own resources seemed quite inadequate. Our annual budget, always raised with difficulty, was less than $5,000.00 and our staff consisted of one permanent member only--the Secretary-Curator. Nevertheless, convinced that the old ship was America's most important maritime relic, we accepted the challenge and raised the money to bring her to Mystic.

Since then, the sum of $90,803.09 has been spent on her, inclusive of cost of moving and berthing her. This money has been carefully laid out. The ship now has a complete new main deck, new masts and spars throughout, new hatches, windlass and much new rigging, in addition to many minor repairs.

Today--nine years later--her further rehabilitation hampered by war, scarcity of good material and rising costs--the *Morgan* still presents serious problems. When we accepted her she had been battered by the Hurricane of '38 and had incurred much damage which required and received immediate attention. It must be remembered also that when she was looking her beautiful best on the Green estate, many extensive and fundamental defects existed under the smartly painted surface. Today, much has been achieved toward correcting those conditions, but deterioration in other directions has reached serious proportions. In some respects the ship is in better condition than ten years ago, but in others far worse.

Many of her top timbers, much of her upper planking and bulwarks and all her davits need replacement, and all her houses require extensive repairs. Perhaps as much as $50,000.00 could be spent to advantage. However, we cannot include in our budget more than $5,000.00 or $6,000.00 annually for this purpose. Even this represents a serious diversion of general contributions. It also means that, without further assistance, the job will be strung out over a long period, during which time the rot will continue to spread.

* * *

The answer seems to lie in specific gifts from those of our friends who have a deep interest in the old ship. We hope there are many who feel as we do that her preservation is no ordinary matter but one that concerns all America. Any contribution, however modest, will be most welcome. It should be earmarked for the "*Morgan* Rehabilitation Fund."

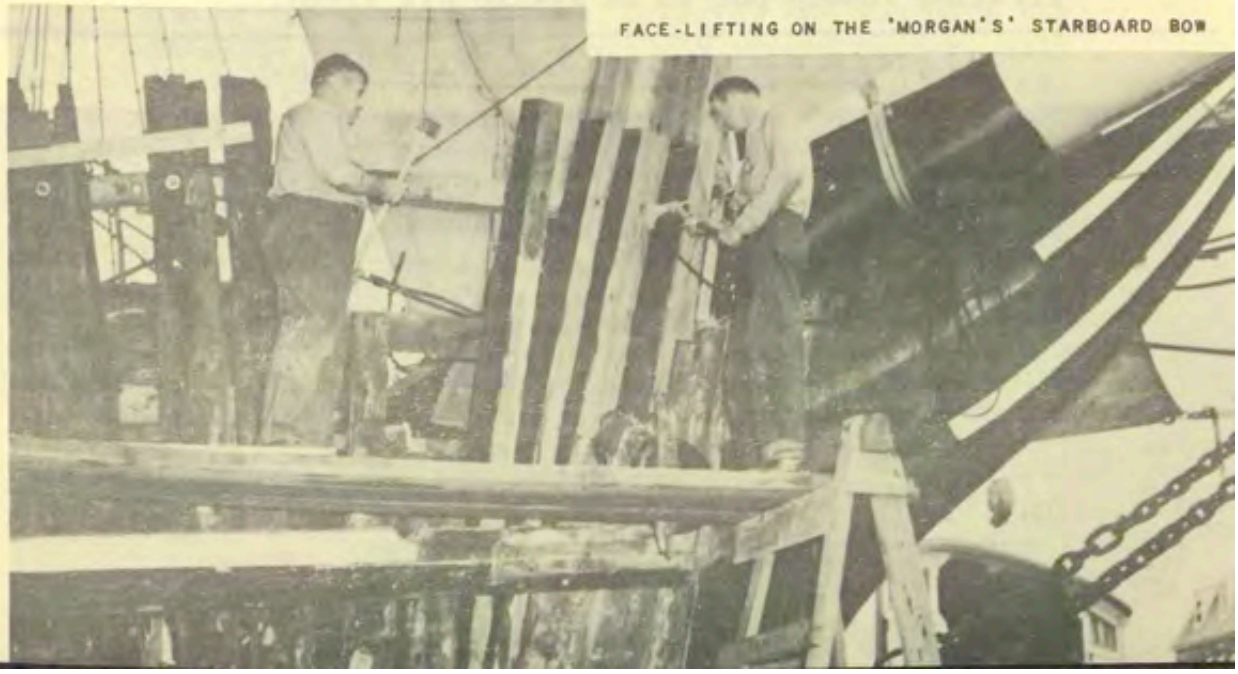
Youth Training Progresses

The summer's program of youth training on the *Joseph Conrad* ended Labor Day. Admiral William T. Stromberg has taken his inventory, secured the ship and is preparing his report for the season. His assistant, Bernie Fuller, has gone into service with the 238th Battalion, A. A. A. of the National Guard; his sailing master, Heinz Guenther, has returned to his studies at M. I. T.

This summer's groups came from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Connecticut. Under the direction of Admiral Stromberg the season was the most successful yet held. Registrations for next year have already begun, which shows that life on a square rigger still holds an appeal for the youth of today. All who came absorbed something that will make for better citizens tomorrow.

The Dyer dhows were in constant use for sailing, the long boats were used in pulling races, the *Admiral Jim*, 40 ft. Navy launch, took the young sailors to the nearby beaches for swimming, wiener roasts, gams and camp-fires, and some youngsters wept when leaving time came.

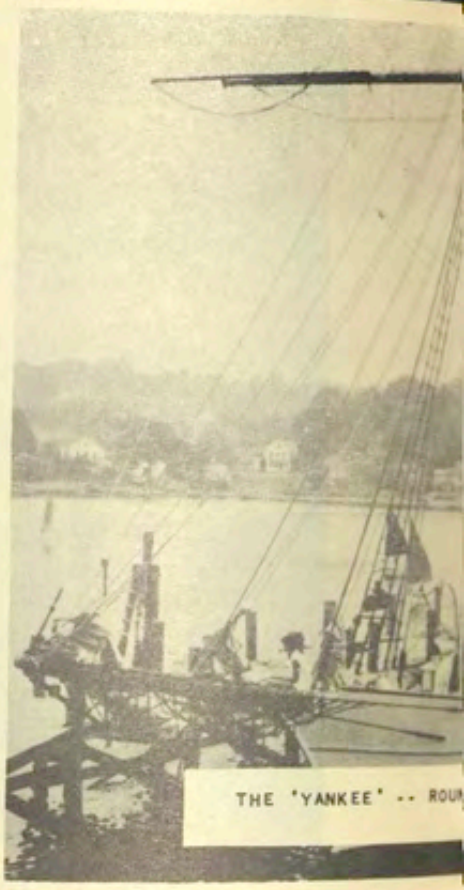
The Youth Training Committee, after two successful seasons of experience, is making plans for a bigger program in 1951.



FACE-LIFTING ON THE 'MORGAN'S' STARBOARD BOW



BURL IVES SINGS A CHANTEY



THE 'YANKEE' -- ROU



CAPT. 'ZEB' TILTON ON 'MORGAN'

GAM



GLAMOUR IN THE MAKING -- A PROFESS



-THE-WORLD VISITOR



A TIBETAN LAMA AT FISHTOWN CHAPEL

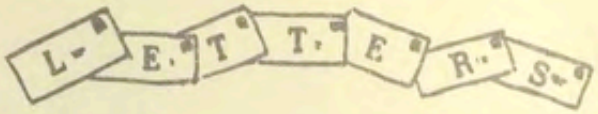
Variable People



ONAL MODEL POSES AT MYSTIC SEAPORT



CADET REINHOLZ RE-VISITS THE "CONRAD"



Palace of the Maha Uperat
of the Kingdom of Siam
Bangkok, Sept. 25th 1853.

To His Excellency
M. C. Perry
Commander in Chief of All the United States
Naval Forces East India, China & Japan Seas

Respected Sir

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of March 14th 1853 from Point de Galle, together with the beautiful pistol which you did me the honor to forward for my acceptance.

It is the best and most perfect thing of the kind I have ever seen, and does great credit to American genius and American skill. I desire through you my best thanks to the distinguished and ingenious inventor Mr. Colt, for this beautiful gift.

I beg you will also accept for yourself my acknowledgements for the kind and flattering manner in which you have conveyed the gift to me.

I shall ever retain a pleasant remembrance of my intercourse with the late Mr. Roberts and the Officers of the United States' Ships "Peacock" and "Enterprise" during their stay here in 1836.

I would desire to reciprocate to you personally and to your country all the friendly interest you have expressed for Siam.

With great respect
I have the honor to remain
Your much obliged friend
Phra Pin Klau chau yu hua
Maha Uperat of the
Kingdom of Siam
or Second King of Siam
&c, &c, &c.

(Continued on following page)

To Commodore M. C. Perry
U. S. America.
Dear Sir,

A long interval has elapsed since I have heard from you. But you are not forgotten.

The beautiful pistol which you had the honor of forwarding to me has afforded me much satisfaction and amusement. I was so much pleased with it, that I have taken special pains to secure as many varieties of the Revolver as I could obtain, but none have given the satisfaction of the pistol you sent me.

As there is an opportunity of sending to America through Mr. Mattoon, the U. S. Consul, I gladly avail myself of it to send you a small, but richly wrought spear, manufactured in Siam, which I trust you will do me the kindness to accept.

The American Envoy had the honor of making a liberal Treaty of Commerce and Friendship, which I trust will prove mutually advantageous.

With best wishes for yourself, believe me,

Yours truly,

S. Phra Pin Klau Chau hu hua
Second King of Siam, &c, &c.

Palace of the Second King
Bangkok, Siam, July 16th, 1856.

* * *

Two of three letters to Commodore Perry from the King of Siam, received as a gift from Henry G. Bartol. The gift included also, the spear mentioned above, the Commodore's chart chest and other interesting items. Letters are enclosed in original envelopes of gold-colored cloth with silk drawstrings and the royal seal.

Variable Winds

New policy of the Southern New England Telephone Company is to feature local scenes on the covers of local subscribers' lists. The New London, Groton, Fishers Island, Ledyard, Mystic and Niantic book for August 1950 features our own *Charles W. Morgan*. Gone is the old figure of Mercury, the Spirit of Communications, now supplanted by the blunt-bowed, plodding whaler. May she find a port in every heart of the 27,450 subscribers.

⊕⊕

Burl Ives, troubador extraordinary of America's folk songs, toured Mystic Seaport in late August, charmed casual visitors on the *Morgan* by breaking out his own favorite chantey 'tween decks.

⊕⊕

Museum visitors on August 16th were startled to see a Buddhist monk in native costume traipsing about the grounds. The Dilowa Huktukhta exiled from his Tibetan monasteries by the Communists, is now with the Page School of International Relations, Johns Hopkins University. Although he speaks but little English, the great Mongol and Tibetan scholar left with a few new words, among them "anchor", which he pronounced like the Asiatic "Angkor".

⊕⊕

The Korean crisis took from Mystic Seaport two valued staff members. Mrs. Virginia Allen left with her husband for his southern encampment. Admiral Stromberg lost his able assistant on the *Conrad*, Bernie Fuller. Bernie, in all the sincerity of his seventeen years, put it this way: "It's the first time I've ever been called upon to do anything for my country. I hate to leave, but I think I'd like to go."

⊕⊕

The second annual Mystic Day brought more than a thousand visitors inside the gates of the old Seaport. While the day long celebration spread all over town, with a baseball game, orange crate derby and block dance, Mystic Seaport's water front was the scene of a colorful, mile-long marine parade, pulling races, and a lavish display of fireworks that will be long remembered.

⊕⊕

Biggest day in the year, a normal Sunday in August brought 1,408 paid admissions. Total August attendance exceeded 20,000, for the first time in history.

⊕⊕

A pleasant August assignment for Clifford Coffin, photographer for *Glamour* magazine, a Conde Nast publication, was to photograph a professional model in various outfits against the glamorous settings of Mystic Seaport. Associate Fashion Editor, Elizabeth Ritter, arranged the assignment.

⊕⊕

October 28th is the date set for a Frost Bite Regatta on the Mystic River. Sailing members of the many yacht clubs

who donated Dyer dhows to Mystic's youth program will be the participants. Entrants will gather in the old New York Yacht Club's Station #10 following which a dutch treat dinner will be served.

⊕⊕

A rendezvous of Pequot Council (New London) area Cub Scouts will be held on Shipyard Point on October 9th. Some 200 Cubs will march in review, tour the Seaport, indulge in competitive sports. The Scouts will reassemble at four o'clock for colors, followed by a box supper and the impressive "Order of the Arrow" around a blazing camp fire. A sort of preview will be held at the Museum on September 23rd, at which the Senior Scouts assigned to help, will man their stations and go through their paces under the guidance of local committeemen and Scout leaders.

⊕⊕

Messrs. Mallory, Cutler and Steers took a ride one day into the back country, to the picturesque little village of North Stonington. They wanted to see George H. Stone's old fashioned country store, which he maintains as a private museum in a barn behind his residence. For an hour they goggled, chuckled and reminisced over Stone's treasures--such odd paraphernalia as ladies' hoops, jars of ginger, old postcards, jugs, bottles, lampwicks. When they said good-bye, generous grocer Stone (who manages a modern grocery, too) loaded into their car: a three-branch oil lamp chandelier for Fishtown Chapel, old-fashioned brackets for carrying the Chapel stove pipe, two religious mottoes and a complete Palladian window with small panes of glass for whatever use at Mystic Seaport. Some of the relics come as a gift from the old Baptist Church, of which Mr. Stone is a trustee, some from his own prized possessions. All will be authentic details for the old Seaport.

⊕⊕

The Seaport Store catalog will be mailed to members the latter part of October or early November, listing more distinctive gifts with a nautical flavor. Wait for it to plan your Christmas buying.

⊕⊕

Through the good offices of Rear Admiral James Fife, Rear Admiral Robert L. Dennison, USN, Naval Aide to the President, is the donor of a piece of teak from the surrender deck of the U.S.S. *Missouri*. A brass plate attached to the block is inscribed "Scene of Japanese Surrender, September 2, 1945."

⊕⊕

On August 4th a group of 19 international students, from a seminar sponsored by the Society of Friends at Avon Old Farms School, visited the Museum. The students came from China, Germany, Holland, Greece, India, Finland and Czechoslovakia. This was but one of many such seminars sponsored by the Society in which the young people from many lands live and study with American students for a seven-weeks period. The opinion of the young man from Berlin as to the goings-on in Washington and Moscow was disheartening. But if we may judge

from the way in which the tall young Hollander held to the hand of pretty Helen Chang, something in the way of international amity was afoot.

⊕⊕

Died, August 20, at Stonington, Conn., Commdr. Griffith Bailey Coale, muralist, World War II Navy combat artist, member of the Board of Directors of the Marine Historical Association. Local historian and avid collector and researcher in maritime matters, his loss is great to his Town and his Association.

⊕⊕

September 15-17 the United Federation of Doll Clubs, Inc. holds its annual convention at New London, Conn., part of the program being a tour of Mystic's famed museum. Miss Marion Dickerman will speak at the Saturday luncheon meeting. One of the Federation's first desires is to see a children's museum in every key city in the United States. Mrs. Janet P. Johl, active member of both the Federation and our Association, is furthering plans for a Junior Museum at Mystic Seaport in which the doll collection of Miss Eleanor Wendell will be featured.

⊕⊕

Marine News, magazine of the nation's shipbuilders and shipping men, has launched a campaign to raise $100,000 in endowment for the Museum's two square-riggers. Spark plugs of the drive are Editor Wendell Phillips Dodge and Executive Vice President Joseph F. Kelly.

⊕⊕

On one of the half dozen calls at Mystic Seaport of the brigantine *Yankee* this summer, Skipper Irving Johnson brought as a gift to the Seaport, some 500 ft. of cable-laid cable, a rare item these days. The *Yankee* has made her last call of the season. In November she starts on another world cruise.

⊕⊕

The big elms in the Yard have been the cause of considerable speculation. Through a spout, penetrating to the heart of the tree, sap steadily drips. The life blood of the tree is not ebbing away. Tree surgeons have placed the spouts there to relieve the natural pressure built up within the trees to heal themselves of injuries already doctored by the tree surgeons.

⊕⊕

The Seaport's Fishtown Chapel is yet to be the scene of a wedding, but the North *Morgan* dock was recently the starting point for a round-the-world, two-years honeymoon when the *Yankee Girl II*, 66 ft. auxiliary schooner, shoved off with newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Priest, Jr., aboard.

⊕⊕

Following the big conclave of Jehovah's Witnesses at Yankee Stadium in New York, a truckload of 39 Witnesses toured Mystic Seaport. They had made the trip from the state of Washington, sleeping on cots and cooking along the road. Two points of sightseeing interest were in their itinerary--Mystic Seaport and Niagara Falls.



THE PLAQUE

at the head of the

OLD WATERFRONT STREET

A recent visitor remarked: "Those words epitomize, better than anything I know, what the Mystic Seaport is all about."

THINGS

we need

"Gifts of things are often as acceptable as gifts of dollars".

This familiar appeal has been made quarterly since your first issue of *The Log*, with gratifying results. The Association hereby expresses its thanks to industries, societies and private individuals who have extended the helpful hand with gifts of such odd items as a sewing machine, underground cable, an old well wheel, an encyclopedia.

Perhaps your company or your home, will yield the following, to add to your own and others' enjoyment of Mystic Seaport:

A TAPE RECORDER

STEEL FILE CABINETS
Card, legal or letter size

CARVED STERNBOARDS OR SHIPS' GANGWAY DECORATIONS
A large one is needed for the gable end of the Wendell Building

SHORT FLAGSTAFFS
For historic flags and signals