



MAINS'L HAUL



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AT LONG LAST — A RESEARCH LIBRARY

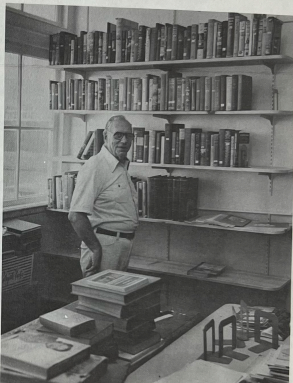
You know how it goes when the Local Chapter takes on the job of hosting the national convention; when it's all over the brothers may have to go out and ring doorbells again, because somebody over-estimated the Registration Fees — or under-estimated the expenses. But The Propeller Club of the United States, Port of San Diego, does not operate that way — and as a result, we are going to get our long-dreamed-of maritime research library.

Not too long ago, the local Propellers hosted the big convention, and wrote their final reports in black ink instead of in red. And as they are dedicated to the welfare of the American merchant marine and to our harbors and waterways, what nicer thing to do with the surplus than to get behind a long-term project involving the preservation of maritime history? The result has been a \$5,000 donation to the Maritime Museum Association, to get the library started.

The library is being located aboard the *Berkeley*, on the port side of the lower deck, just opposite the engineroom casing. Ceiling, painting, illumination and shelves already are in place, and the basic job of sorting, indexing and shelving the books which have been in storage for many years is underway. Not only books, however, will be collected and made available to historical researchers in the maritime field; there also are on hand many photographs, negatives and old charts, now stored on B Street Pier or in the orlop of the *Star of India*. Organizing the library — which will include the elimination of obviously out-of-field material — has been placed in the hands of a Library Committee headed by Capt. Gregg Chandler USNR (Ret), assisted by Bob Weinstein of Los Angeles, and Jerry MacMullen. All have had extensive experience as researchers, writers and lecturers in the field of nautical history.

Present holdings — either our own or on permanent loan — include a complete run of the *List of Merchant Vessels of the United States*, from 1885 to 1953, the basic document for research on American vessels; in addition to such craft, the earlier ones also list the basic rig, tonnage machinery and year of construction, of vessels of the U. S. Navy, Army Engineers, Quarantine Service, Revenue Cutter Service and Light-house Service, the two latter now being a part of the U. S. Coast Guard.

Although the last thing in the world which the Library Committee wants is to invite a deluge of books and magazines of perhaps dubious historical value,



Thanks to the generosity of the Propeller Club, the dream of a maritime research library is being realized. A new library room has been fitted out aboard the *Berkeley*, and here Capt. Gregg Chandler, Chairman of the Library Committee, is getting things started.

— JOHN FALCONER

there are a few items they would appreciate obtaining as donations. These include the following: Old copies of *Lloyd's Register* and of the *Register of the American Bureau of Shipping*; copies of the annual *Ship's Data Book* of the U. S. Navy prior to about 1935, when it became a classified publication, and copies up to around 1910 of the *U. S. Coast Pilot, West Coast* — as well as early copies of the *Coast Pilot for the West Coast of Mexico and Central America*; old charts of the West Coast, especially California, and of San Diego Bay also are desired. And don't forget identifiable photos or negatives of bygone ships of the same area.