

# She's the Mother of an Ocean-Going Freighter

For the third time, Miss Carol Andersen, fifth grade teacher at Madison School has become "honorary mother" to a ship on the high seas. Sharing "foster parent" duties with her are her current crop of fifth grade students. Most recent addition to Andersen's nautical brood is the SS President Polk, a luxury-type cargo ship which made its maiden voyage just a little over a year ago.

Acquired "adoption" privileges towards the SS President Polk, similar to those she enjoyed with its predecessors, through the Adopt-A-Ship Plan sponsored by the Propeller Club of the United States. Purpose of the plan is to enable students throughout the country to gain first-hand information about the world from the men who sail the seas.

Continuing a correspondence begun by last year's class, this year's fifth graders have been exchanging letters with Captain Robert Sweetser. In return they have received lengthy messages combining factual data about the ship with colorful tales of the ship's captain. His reminiscences have ranged from recollections of a Russian admiral who lost his fleet after struggling to fuel his battleships with wood during World War II to a description of his roundabout attempts to order a dozen roses for his wife in San Francisco while at a naval station near Manila.

Included in the captain's letters have been copies of ship radiograms, weather reports, memoranda, and shipboard services.

AS QUICKLY as mail has arrived from the ship, students have mimeographed copies for distribution to every member of the class. One copy has been tacked on the bulletin board and the original has been placed in a scrapbook. Each student

placed his mimeographed letter in an individual scrapbook he has kept.

To tie the ship into classroom studies, Miss Anderson has assigned arithmetic problems dealing with nautical measurements. When students began studying poetry one afternoon a week, they decided to collect nautical poems for the crew. Results were placed in a handbound book to the Foster Parents Plan and learned that for \$15 a month they could support a needy child overseas.

Last week the opportunity to tell the crew personally of how they planned to spend the money arrived. The SS President Polk arrived in San Pedro, and Captain Sweetser had extended a special invitation to the class to board her while she was unloading.

AS SCHEDULED, the students arrived at the dock at 11 a.m. To their disappointment Captain Sweetser had been taken ill in San Francisco and a substitute captain was temporarily filling his nautical shoes.

Despite the switch, however, plans went according to schedule.

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