

THE WASHINGTON SHIP MODEL SOCIETY

# LOG

1929

1961

#### DEDICATION

This the third LOG of the Washington Ship Model Society is dedicated to all of our shipmates that have completed their tour of duty on this earth and have passed on to the Great Sea Beyond. May we be worthy of their friendship.

L O G

The Washington Ship Model Society

Since the year 1929 a small group of men interested in matters relating particularly to the sea and in ship models and their construction have been associated together in the Nation's Capital as The Washington Ship Model Society.

Through good times and bad, during peace and war, the fortunes of the Society have varied but the members have carried on with an excellent spirit of mutual helpfulness. Strong friendships have developed, much research into nautical antiquities has been done and many splendid ship models have been built by members of the Society.

The primary purpose of the organization as stated in the By-Laws are;

"For the mutual benefit of each other in model making, for the exchange of ideas, and to preserve for posterity exact replicas, in miniature, of historic vessels."

These ideals have been faithfully adhered to throughout the Society's existences.

The Society had its inception at the home of Kenneth A. Foote on October 8th, 1929, at which time there were present; Kenneth A. Foote, John C. Carlton and William Hoeke. At this gathering the desirability of the formation of a club of men interested in building ship models was discussed and at several different following meetings with kindred spirits the idea was developed. On September 30th, 1930, at a meeting, again in the home of Kenneth A. Foote, it was decided to form a club and hold regular meetings. These meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of each month except during July and August.

Those present on this occasion and thus becoming founders or "Charter Members" of the "Ship Model Makers Club", as it was then decided to call the group, were: John C. Carlton, Kenneth A. Foote, J. G. Gerns, W. E. Grier, William Hoeke, David R. McCauley and Albert C. Wagner.

Informal meetings were held at the homes of the various members for several months until it became apparent a more regular organization was desirable. On January 13th, 1931, Kenneth A. Foote was elected President (Captain) and William Hoeke, Secretary, for the ensuing year. These became the first regular officers of the Society.

Kenneth A. Foote has continued active in promoting of the group throughout the succeeding years and much of the success of the Society can be justly attributed to his efforts.

Since its organization the Society has had a steady growth in accordance with the sound foundation laid down by the Charter Members.

A large membership has never been desired, yet any male of good character and genuinely interested in ship modeling and maritime matters has been welcome to attend the Society's meetings.

Following a precedent established before the formal organization of the Society, the meetings have been held in the homes of various members and, generally, the procedure is as follows: First, a short "get together" social meeting is held, then the minutes of the last meeting are read for the benefit of those present. Any business requiring the attention of the members is brought before those present and disposed of in the usual manner. After all business has been disposed of, a general round table discussion is held on ship modeling, ship practices, new tools, experiences in ship model building, improved means of construction and ship lore. An examination is then made of the models made or under construction by the host and the equipment of his workshop. Light refreshments are then served by the "Lady of the House". A spirit of helpfulness and good fellowship always prevails.

In addition to the regular routine outlined above the members attending are frequently entertained by a guest speaker of note: naval officers, travelers, merchant seamen and others describing aspects of nautical interest, ships and ship models.

An exhibit of ship models built and collected by the members is held each year at some prominent location in the city of Washington. The number of models and the excellent workmanship of the members there displayed has received favorable comment in the newspapers of the capital and from the many visitors to the exhibition.

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, who, in 1933, accepted Honorary Membership in the Society, has loaned one of the splendid models from his outstanding collection for exhibit with the models built by members of the Society. Mrs. Roosevelt has attended exhibitions and expressed her pleasure and interest in the models shown.

Each year one or more social meetings have been held with necessary business features cut to a minimum and informal good fellowship association emphasized. These meetings have been greatly enjoyed, especially the several Christmas parties at the beautiful home of Honorary Member Edgar Browner.

The Annual Banquets held each February have been note-worthy. At this time the winning models shown in the Annual Exhibit are awarded cups by the Chief Judge, these cups being held by the winners for a period of one year, or until won by another entry.

Each Spring a Ladies Night was held, at which time the wives and sweethearts of the members were guests of honor. On this occasion, speakers, music and other entertainment of the highest order have been in order.

The following is a chronological list of the high-lights of the Society's activities, the officers since its founding and a roster of its present members.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

1929

October 8th. Formation of a club of men interested in ship models discussed at the home of Kenneth A. Foote with John C. Carlton, Kenneth A. Foote and William Hoeks present.

1930

March 18th. Preliminary meeting at the home of Kenneth A. Foote.

April 15th. Informal meeting at the home of William Hoeks.

May 16th. Informal meeting at the home of David McCaulley.

June 10th. Informal meeting at the home of Albert Wagner.

June 19th. Informal meeting at the home of J. G. Germs.

September 9th. Regular meeting planned for the second Tuesday of each month except July and August.

1931

January 13th. Kenneth A. Foote elected first President (captain) and William Hoeks first Secretary (ship's clerk). The name selected was Ship Model Makers' Club.

April 28th. First Exhibition of the ship models made by members planned. Name of the club changed to "The Washington Chapter, Ship Model Makers' Club."

May 14th. First Annual Exhibition held at the office of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, 14th and New York Avenue.

May 23rd. First Annual Exhibition closed.

October 13th. Advisory Committee formed of retiring officers to act as Board of Governors.

November 10th. Fee for members joining after first half of the fiscal year fixed at \$1.00.

1932

January 13th. Raymond Willoughby elected Librarian in charge of all books, photographs, and blueprints belonging to the club.

March 10th. Annual Banquet held at the Washington Hotel.

March. Second Annual Exhibition held at Woodward and Lothrop's Department Store.

May 10th. Effective September 1st, dues increased from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per annum. Commander Oulliver of the United States Frigate "Constitution" addressed the club.

September 11th. Policy of meeting in the homes of members officially adopted.

October 11th. "Shop Notes" following business section inaugurated.

November 8th. Club recommended that efforts be made to save and restore Commander Perry's brig the "Niagara".

1933

January 10th. Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt elected Honorary Member. Parchment membership certificate prepared by President Harold Cook and accepted by Mr. Roosevelt. Ben McCauley and Joseph N. Krause were elected to Honorary Membership.

February 7th. Comdr. Richard R. Luken, U. S. S. "Surveyor", was the guest speaker and also showed motion pictures of Alaska and seafaring subjects for the members.

March. Second Annual Dinner at the Collier Inn.

April 11th. Opening of Third Annual Exhibit. John Carlton elected to Honorary Membership.

June 13th. Dues reduced to \$2.00 per year.

September 13th. President and Secretary reelected for second term. Willard Garrett elected Ship's Purser.

1934

February 13th. Third Annual Dinner held at the Mayflower Hotel. Mr. George Reid impersonator of the National Broadcasting Company was the chief entertainer.

March 13th. Mr. Edgar N. Bramer elected to Honorary Membership.

May 20th. Members inspected collection of Ship Models and Marine Prints of President Roosevelt at the White House.

May 26th. Opening of Fourth Annual Exhibit.

September 11th. Carl A. Swanson elected President and J. E. Nielson elected Purser.

October 10th. Albert C. Wagner reelected Secretary. Office of Vice-President added to list of officers.

November 13th. Society entertained by Jack Ralstrom and Warren Terrell of Radio Station WMAL.

November 24th. Farewell party held in honor of Louis H. Kaufman who was moving to Richmond, Virginia.

December 11th. Dr. D. D. V. Stuart elected to Honorary Membership.

1935

February 15th. Maine Day. Fourth Annual dinner held aboard the Schooner "Constellation" owned by Robert Royal and captained by Alvin Lossche. The Schooner was docked at the Masters Wharf on the Washington Canal.

May 19th. Opening of the Fifth Annual Exhibit at the Canadian Pacific Railway Building. Reception and preview held on Sunday afternoon. This exhibit sponsored by the Honorable Henry L. Roosevelt, Asst. Secretary of the Navy; William D. Boutsell, Office of Public Education; Gordon Grant, artist; and George F. Bowerman, Public Librarian.

June 11th. Meeting held at the Corinthian Yacht Club through the courtesy of Albert H. Seeley. Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S. J., Dean of the Georgetown University, elected to Honorary Membership.

September 7th. All officers re-elected to second term. Mr. Lehmann of the U. S. Coast Guard exhibited to the members eight reels of sound pictures illustrating all phases of Coast Guard work.

October 8th. New by-laws adopted. Rank of Commodore established for outgoing President.

October 29th. Special social meeting at the home of J. E. Nielson.

November 19th. Theater party to see "Mutiny on the Bounty" at the Palace Theater.

### 1936

February 18th. Fifth Annual Banquet held at Wesley Hall. Captain J. F. Hellweg, Chief of the Naval Observatory was the guest speaker, his subject, Navigation.

May 16th. Opening of the Sixth Annual Exhibit at the Canadian Pacific Building. The preview held on this date was attended by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt and other distinguished guests. President Roosevelt displayed a model of an 1812 Brig of War.

June 9th. Meeting held at the Corinthian Yacht Club. Albert H. Seeley, host.

September 8th. J. E. Nielson elected captain, H. P. Harnsberger purser and Albert C. Wagner reelected ship's clerk.

October 13th. Author of books about ships, Howard J. Chappelle, was the guest of honor at this meeting.

December 8th. Mr. Smith of the U. S. Lighthouse Service entertained the members with motion pictures of the service.

### 1937

February 17th. Sixth Annual Banquet held at the All States Hotel. Mr. Henry Krunsberg, U. S. N. Retired, a survivor of the Greely Relief Expedition, was the guest speaker.

May 22nd. Opening of the Seventh Annual Exhibit at the Canadian Pacific Building. Preview held on this date attracted much attention. The exhibit was sponsored by John A. Hermon, President of the President's Cup Regatta Assn., and Captain Dudley W. Knox, U. S. N., Librarian of the U. S. Navy.