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FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

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This Month's Theme: Tall Ships

Two Years Before The Mast

Richard Henry Dana Jr. was a 19th Century sailor who signed on to be a common seaman aboard the *Pilgrim*. Dana wrote about the difficulties of his two years at sea in his novel *Two Years Before the Mast*.

The California hide trade was very important during this time. Vessels like the *Pilgrim* would load up in their East Coast ports, stuffing the ship with finished leather products, iron and spices. They would travel around the treacherous Cape Horn, and trade

these products on the California coast. On their way back home, they filled up the ship with hides and tallow. New England's leather trade was dependent on the hides that were brought back from the West coast. Trade from coast to coast depended completely on ships at this time.

Spirit of Dana Point sails into Santa Barbara Harbor. Photo courtesy of WROSS.



Life At Sea

When a sailor chose to sail around Cape Horn he signed on for two years. Sailors knew when they stepped aboard a ship they would not see their families or friends for two years, or for even longer if the weather was bad.

The experienced **Captain** had complete power on a tall ship and was to be called "Sir" at all times.

Underneath the Captain were the **First** and **Second Mates**. The mates relayed the Captain's orders and made sure their crew was safe and always hard at work. The First Mate was in charge of discipline and direct supervision of the crew.

The rest of the sailors were divided into "crews." There were five main crews aboard a tall ship, the **Galley Crew**, **Boatswain's Crew**, **Line Handler's Crew**, **Hide Gatherer's Crew**, and **Rigger's Crew**. These crews were led by a mate and were responsible for various aspects of ship life.

The **Galley Crew**, made sure that each crew member was fed. Because the ship could be at sea for two years, they had to be careful with the rations each day to make sure they did not run out.

The **Boatswain's Crew** was responsible for keeping up the ship's maintenance, which was critical for a safe voyage. After a storm, they did necessary repairs.

The **Line Handler's Crew** oversaw the handling of all line aboard the vessel. This crew rigged the block and tackle systems, raised the sails and handled cargo coming aboard.

The **Hide Gatherer's Crew** made repeated trips to shore in a long boat to collect hides with a cargo net and block and tackle system.

The **Rigger's Crew** was responsible for setting up of sails and equipment. They also helped load the cargo.

Teamwork was very important during these voyages. Each crew had its individual responsibilities, but even more important was that the crews worked together, and helped in all aspects of the voyage.



Local students row long boat to gather hides. Photo courtesy of Dave Fresilli.



Isla Vista students join in to help in rigging the ship. Photo courtesy of Dave Fresilli.

Tall Ship Comes to Santa Barbara



Local students set off on their adventure aboard a tall ship. Photo courtesy of Dave Fresilli.

Imagine what it would be like, stepping aboard one of these historic vessels, to live the life of a 19th century sailor. This April, local 4th grade students from the Santa Barbara area will have that chance when the replica tall ship *Spirit of Dana Point* comes to Santa Barbara. She will be here for two weeks in April, and again in May, to host overnight living history programs with the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Local Students Sign Up To Be Sailors

Some of the students from last year's program remember their experience:

Gina Roca from Harding School was a mate in the Linehandler's Crew. She said that she didn't expect this experience to involve that much work!

Blanca Garcia, from Harding School, was a mate and in the Boatswain's Crew

where she rang the bell, coiled lines and cleaned up the beds in the morning. She said the experience aboard the tall ship "was nice, there was a lot of hard work, it was fun".



Ricky Lopez, another Harding School student, was a mate in the Rigger's Crew where he rolled up ropes, helped put up the swing, and cleaned the deck. He said the trip was different than what he expected because "I had to do more work than I expected, and we got really wet."



All student photos from the SBMM Photo Collection.

Ahoy, Mates!

Try using some of these words in your vocabulary, and become a 21st Century sailor! **Aye Aye:** Yes, I understand and I will carry out your orders.

Carry On: Get started (You must hear "Carry On" before you can begin work).

Port: Left side of the vessel, facing forward.

Starboard: Right side of the vessel, facing forward.

Bow: Forward end of a ship.

Stern: Backward end of a ship.

An example might be:

Captain: "Swab the starboard decks!"

Galley Crew: "Aye Aye, Sir"

Captain: "Carry On"



Isla Vista students take orders from their Captain. Photo courtesy of Dave Fresilli.

Word Scramble Activity

Unscramble the underlined words to find the answers to these puzzle questions. The solutions are below.

- 1) The Captain must be called RSI at all times.
- 2) What was the name of the vessel on which Richard Henry Dana, Jr. sailed? GPRMILI
- 3) What were the two items that the crew brought back to the East coast? DHIE OLWTLA
- 4) The person in charge aboard the ship is called ANPCTAL.
- 5) Which crew was responsible for cooking and feeding the crew? LELGYA RCWE
- 6) What kind of boat did the Hide Gatherer's crew use to collect hides? NGLO OTBA
- 7) Which crew was in charge of making sure the ship was kept in tip-top condition? BNAIOTASW CWER
- 8) What word would a sailor use to say, the 'Right Side'? ABAODRTSR
- 9) What word must you wait to hear from the Captain before you can begin work? RYACR NO
- 10) Which vessel will be coming into the Santa Barbara Harbor in April and May? TIRSIP FO

Puzzle Answers: 1. Sir; 2. Pilgrim; 3. Hide, Tallow; 4. Captain; 5. Galley Crew; 6. Long Boat; 7. Boatswain; 8. Starboard; 9. Carry On; 10. Spirit of Dana Point

Family Events at Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum hosted its 4th annual Sea Festival on April 9-10. It featured Deep Sea Diving demos, arts & crafts, sea chantey singing, tall ship tours and more!

The museum will also be participating in the Come Sea Our Fair event at the Earl Warren Fair Grounds April 20-24. We'll be bringing some of our exciting exhibits and interactive youth activities. Please join us as we celebrate the maritime culture of Santa Barbara and learn more about the sea!



Hardhat diver Shane Anderson helps celebrate Maritime Museum's annual Sea Festival. Photo courtesy Dave Fresilli.

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