



# Coast Guard Heritage Museum

at the U.S. Custom House in Barnstable Village, Cape Cod, Massachusetts

## Spring 2023 Newsletter

### Season 19 at CGHM Begins

The Coast Guard Heritage Museum has opened for our 19th season. Our hours of operation are Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm. We are part of the Cape Cod Museum Trail, a coalition of more than 70 museums celebrating the history, nature, art, and culture of the area. The Coast Guard Heritage Museum will continue its hours through Veterans' Day, Saturday, November 11.



This year, we have some new acquisitions that visitors can look forward to seeing. They include two wooden Western Electric crank operated phones that were in use at the Cuttyhunk Island Coast Guard station. Our in-house engineers have wired them (with instructions for use) so the first-floor phone operator can 'call up' the second-floor operator.

One of the two newly acquired wooden crank phones

While we were very saddened with the loss of our neighbor, Jim Ellis at the Smithy, (see Crossing the Bar in this issue), we are happy to know that Mark Grenier will be stepping in to continue blacksmith demonstrations through the summer. Mark had worked closely with Jim over the past few seasons and we welcome him as part of the Barnstable Village family.

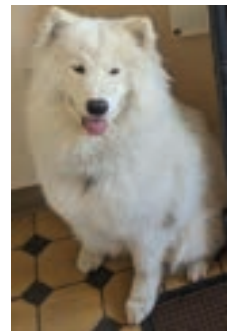
For visitors who have difficulty traversing the stairs of our historic building, museum member Carmine Bazzano has put together an excellent second deck visitor's audio/video with narrative to 'walk through' the exhibits. It is available, with seating, on the TV in the small exhibit space on the first floor. The docents will be happy to assist in getting the video started.

Our front desk has a new, state of the art credit card machine that will make transactions such as admissions and purchases easier to accomplish. Training for docents will be provided for any needing to learn its operation.

As always, there are the usually unsung heroes who are here over the winter doing the 'behind the scenes' work to get the museum prepared for Opening Day.

Recently, a group including Buck Baley, Bill Collette, Rick Poole, Mike Maynard, and Vic Viola were busy doing a 'yard availability' on the CGC *Campbell* display. The glass display case sparkled inside and out, the smallest of figures repainted and new lighting installed, so the first thing to capture the visitor's eye is again our *Pride and Joy*. As always, the floors have been waxed to a high shine and the doors were opened on time for the visitors to better understand our mandate to tell the CG Story from the Cape Cod perspective.

Master Model Maker, Mike Maynard and Museum Volunteer Rick Poole working on the *Campbell* display



We are also excited to introduce our new museum mascot, Liberty (Libby for short). She is a 16-month-old Samoyed who is ready to greet visitors lucky enough to visit the museum on days when she is in residence. Libby is the pride and joy of CGHM Vice-President Henry (Buck) Baley and his wife Nancy.

As always, the success of the CG Heritage Museum is dependent upon the involvement and support of our all-volunteer members and staff. If you would like to become part of our success story, please contact either President Greg Ketchen or Vice President Buck Baley to find out where your talents can be best put to use.

# Ingham's Last Part of History

## . . . The Last Big Boom

It was a cold, cloudy and blustery day in early November 1965. USCGC INGHAM was headed to Ocean Station Bravo for a 45-day patrol in what was recognized as the worst place to be in the North Atlantic Ocean during the winter. Bravo, as we referred to it, was a 210 square mile area generally located due south of Greenland and northeast of Labrador and Newfoundland, basically at the mouth of the Labrador Sea. That's where the cold waters of the north flow headlong into the warm Gulf Stream. The result of that merger is a tumultuous section of the water often producing waves 35 to 40 feet high as a matter of routine. Ocean Station Bravo had Coast Guard vessels on station and watching 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year long. Nevertheless, on this particular day, INGHAM was northeast bound off the Delmarva Peninsula and taking 12-foot seas without a care in the world.

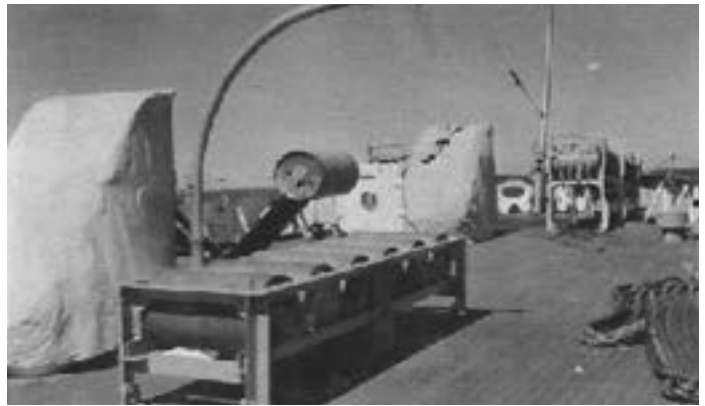
Suddenly the General Quarters alarm sounds just like it does in all the old naval movies . . . sort of a very loud gong, gong, gong, gong on every loud speaker on board ship. Every crew member raced to his GQ station and made ready for battle.

"Make ready the depth charges" came the command from the wing of the bridge. Ordinance men were releasing tie-down straps which had secured the 55-gallon, 100-pound depth charges from the security of their above deck carriages. "Set the depth at 150 feet!" came the next order.



USCG Photo

Very carefully, the Second-Class Gunner's Mate adjusted the depth setting only to have his work checked by the First Class, and his work checked by the Chief. "Ready to launch!" reported the Chief. The XO, who had the conn during General Quarters, shouted through the 1MC communicator, "Combat, Conn! Report any surface contacts." "No contacts, sir," replied the radar operator. "Combat, Conn. Report any sub-surface contacts." "No sub-surface contacts, sir" replied the sonar operator.



"Very well," said the XO. "All hands make ready to launch depth charge." That was the general announcement which meant "Hang on tight, y'all. We're about to make a big splash." On the bridge, the XO calmly said, "Fire one" and the first depth charge shot off the starboard side of the fantail, almost 100 feet into the air, then splashed onto the surface and immediately disappeared, while INGHAM raced ahead to get as far as possible from what was about to happen next. Everyone began counting off the seconds to themselves. No one but the Gunners Mates and the crew on the bridge knew exactly how many seconds it would take the depth charge to reach its assigned depth of 150 feet and then explode.

Then, completely without any warning, a huge underwater explosion shook the entire ship and sent a plume of water at least 100 feet in the air right where the charge had splashed through the surface and confirmed that the charge had exploded as planned. Those of us lucky enough to have been topside and seen the explosion marveled at the ferocity of the blast. We all wondered how any Nazi submarine could have withstood a dozen or more such blasts and not sink straight to Davey Jones' Locker, taking all German hands with it.



The crew stood down from General Quarters and the ship returned to normal underway activities. Later that afternoon, the Captain came on the ship's PA system and made the following announcement: "Good afternoon, men, this is the Captain speaking. This afternoon we executed a perfect launch of one of our depth charges. The exercise was perfect in every respect. **It is important to note, and I sincerely hope you will recognize the significance of this event, because the US Coast Guard Cutter INGHAM has, today, launched and exploded the last depth charge to be fired into the North Atlantic Ocean. Well done! That is all.**" One could only imagine the type of death experienced by the Axis submariners during the Second World War as their submarines imploded hundreds of feet below the surface.

by Jonathan Humphreys, RD3-64

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## President's Report

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Although it really wasn't a surprise, spring, in all its glory, has again arrived on Cape Cod. Seems to happen every year! With our spring cleaning completed, flowers planted outside, and exhibits readied, we started our 2023 season on May 2nd. This year, we plan to remain open until Veteran's Day. If you're on the Cape this summer, stop in to see us. We'd enjoy showing you around and I'm sure that you'll be pleasantly surprised.

In the past few months, we have begun or are actively supporting several exciting new initiatives. These include creating a National Coast Guard Museum Network and commissioning a large mural for the Great Hall in the State House in Boston that will celebrate Massachusetts as the birthplace of the Coast Guard. Significant progress is being made on both these projects. We are also expanding our speaker program to reach more audiences outside the museum. This has recently included talks in Michigan and Pennsylvania (via Zoom), in Florida and to a variety of groups in SE New England. This summer, we'll be giving talks at the Wright Museum in New Hampshire.

It has been our privilege to offer on-site programs for active-duty personnel ranging from chief initiations (CCTI) to promotion ceremonies. The hard work provided by the young men and women from the various CG commands on Cape Cod has proven invaluable to us.

We have been very fortunate to have several new volunteers who bring a rich mix of talent and experience that nicely complement the skills of our museum family. We currently have about 40 volunteers contributing from a few hours a year to several days per week. If you are interested in helping us tell the Coast Guard story and preserve the rich legacy of our service, consider joining us.



Master Chief Linder and his daughter offering words of wisdom to the PCPOs going through CCTI.

*Greg Ketchen*

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## Crossing the Bar

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The Museum lost a very special and dear next-door neighbor in February when James (Jim) Otis Ellis Sr., Crossed the Bar. Jim was an invaluable member of the Barnstable Village and an 11th generation Barnstable native, full of kindness and local wisdom about everything from trap boats to Red Raiders football. Everyone in town stopped to talk to Jim and his wife Joan on their welcoming porch.



Blacksmithing was his passion and he carried on the 111-year family tradition in the same village, the longest record in the country. For 44 years, he continued "this ancient and honorable craft" in order to preserve the past and ensure its future.



Jim and his family  
photo: Nancy V. Shoemaker



Jim and Joan Ellis ready for a July 4th Parade - Photo: Grace Galvin

Jim served his country in the Marine Corps Reserves, then in the Air Force. He was a true friend to the Coast Guard Heritage Museum.

The Ellises were honored as Grand Marshals in the July 4th parade in Barnstable Village in 2017. And he received the 2022 Town of Barnstable Preservation Award for his work in preserving local history - and in preserving his honored trade. His obituary in the *Cape Cod Times* ended with his guiding principle; "Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without. I could fix anything except a broken heart." Words to live by, and a true map for success in any field.

**We miss you, Jim.**

# ••••• The Selling of the Coast Guard's Service Song ••••• "Semper Paratus"

The director steps to the podium and firmly taps his baton, bringing the military band to attention in the recording studio. The 55-member ensemble sits poised and ready to play a medley of service tunes and marching songs for their latest ceremonial CD, which will be distributed to Coast Guard units to play at countless retirements and changes of command. Finally, the musical group reaches their own service song, *Semper Paratus*.

While most Coast Guardsmen's hearts swell with pride at the sound of *Semper Paratus*, for the band members, playing the music stings like the pain from an old wound. While they recorded the service songs of the US Army, US Navy and Marine Corps for free, the band cannot say the same of their own anthem. The copyright and licenses of *Semper Paratus* are held by three separate companies.



The story of the Coast Guard's service song began in the winter of 1922 on the decks of the Cutter *Yamacraw*. Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck, the commanding officer, was suddenly struck by a moment of inspiration and descended below to his cabin. When he emerged, he brought with him a composition

strewn with the legendary feats of the small sea-going service, destined to be America's maritime guardians. Van Boskerck's pride of service was evident in the poem – his 23 years at sea provided ample fodder for the verses. A career cutterman, Van Boskerck truly served from the Aztec shores to the Arctic Zones. One may imagine the veteran officer battling the "surf and storm and howling gale" while in command of the famed Cutter *Bear* during his six-month Bering Sea patrol in 1921.

Van Boskerck departed the West Coast for what would be his last Coast Guard tour, the Captain of the Port for Norfolk, Virginia, and it was there that *Semper Paratus* was publicly debuted in the winter of 1926-27. The song was excitedly received and it seemed that Van Boskerck had a hit on his hands.

In 1927 Van Boskerck traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with the editor and publisher of the U.S. Coast Guard magazine, Lt. Col. Harvey Miller. He carried with him a well-worn copy of *Semper Paratus* and implored Miller to make his song as recognizable as the service songs of the other military services. Miller promised to try, and Van Boskerck

departed to catch the ferry back to Norfolk. That evening as the ferry plowed the waters of Chesapeake, Van Boskerck was struck by an apparent heart attack and died at sea.

Wanting to fulfill his promise to the song's author, Miller enlisted the help of Lt. William Sima, the U.S. Naval Academy bandmaster, to expand the simple melody into a full orchestral presentation. With the entire composition complete, a gala music event was held in Washington D.C. to formally premiere *Semper Paratus*, featuring a realistic storm scene, nautically dressed chorus girls and armed personnel from the Cutter *Apache*, while a male quartet dressed in lifesaving station garb, sang the service's new Coast Guard anthem.

In April 1928, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, Rear Admiral Frederick Billiard, endorsed the song as the service's anthem. But despite his efforts, Miller struggled to distribute the song outside the Capitol region, sending copies to bands and orchestras throughout the nation at his own expense. Finally fate smiled on Miller's quest and the song was used in two movies, *Border Flight* and *March of Time*, which garnered the attention of the Sam Fox Music Publishing Company. Intrigued by the song's potential, the publishing company coordinated with Miller to purchase the copyright for \$50 so the song could be published on a national level, and the copyright was transferred in 1938. In 1942, Sam Fox Music Publishing Company, in conjunction with Miller's U.S. Coast Guard magazine, launched a campaign to popularize the service's song with *Semper Paratus* ultimately reaching 16 on the music charts. Transferring the copyright to the Sam Fox Music Publishing Company came with the stipulation that all royalties were to be paid to Van Boskerck's widow, Carlotta. However, she refused out of a sentiment of good will.

As generations of Coast Guardsmen ran through the course of their careers, decades passed and *Semper Paratus* became an elemental component of the service's culture. The copyright remained with Sam Fox Music Publishing Company until 2000, when Warner/Chappell Music, a subsidiary of Warner Entertainment acquired the entire Sam Fox music library. Alfred Music assumed the management of the mechanical rights for *Semper Paratus* in 2005, which included the printing and recording of the song. These companies actively manage copyright and associated licenses, and to this day collect royalties from the service's song. For the U.S. Coast Guard Band, it appears that they will have to continue to pay to record their own song until 2024, when the song is finally scheduled to be released to the public domain.

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Various Coast Guard affiliated groups have attempted to purchase the copyright or have it released to the public domain for the past 77 years. Attempts have increased during the past decade; however, the rights and licenses remain with Warner/Chappell, ASDCAP and Alfred Music. Ironically, despite his best of intentions, Harvey Miller may have unwittingly sold government property to a private entity without proper authorization. *Semper Paratus* was written on a

Coast Guard vessel, by a Coast Guard employee and musically arranged by different government employees, all with the intention to create a service anthem for the Coast Guard. In addition, the initial copyright was registered to an office within Coast Guard Headquarters. These factors indicate the song was government property and subsequently in the public domain ten years before the copyright was sold.

## *Semper Paratus*

FIRST VERSE:

From Aztec Shore to Arctic Zone,  
To Europe and Far East,  
The Flag is carried by our ships  
In times of war and peace;  
And never have we struck it yet  
In spite of foremen's might,  
Who cheered our crews and cheered again  
For showing how to fight

CHORUS:

We're always ready for the call,  
We place our Trust in Thee.  
Through surf and storm and howling gale'  
High shall our purpose be.  
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,  
Our fame and glory too.  
To fight to save or fight and die,  
Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!

Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck, USCG,  
author of *Semper Paratus*

## The U.S. Coast Guard by the Numbers

- In 1922, the USCG saved 2,954 lives and property worth \$35,346,095.00.
- In 1923 there were 149 officers: 418 warrant officers and 3,789 enlisted personnel.
- In June 1946, Congress tentatively authorized the peacetime strength of the USCG as: 3,500 officers, 1,400 warrant officers and 30,000 enlisted personnel.
- As of Oct. 1977, there were 7,100 officers, 845 cadets and 26,945 enlisted personnel.
- In January 1981, there were 6,159 active-duty officers, 981 cadets and 32,260 enlisted personnel.
- By October 1991, all 24 CG Air Stations and 2 air facilities were staffed with rescue swimmers.
- In 2021, there were 44,500 active-duty personnel in the USCG.
- As of 2022, in a single year, the USCG responded to 19,790 Search and Rescue calls, saved 3,560 lives and \$77,000,000 in property.
- The U.S. Coast Guard has authorized a total of 43 battle streamers, which are attached to the Coast Guard standard, replacing cords and tassels. Battle streamers are carried in all official ceremonies, representing heroic actions in all naval encounters from 1798 to today. Any Coast Guard unit may display the battle streamers.
- The USCG is still smaller than the NYC Police Department (51,000 employees).

Information gathered from USCG Boating Safety Division and CG Historians Office

## Did You Know . . .

Boston Light, dubbed the "ideal American lighthouse" by the historian Edward Rowe Snow, holds a place of honor among the nation's beacons. This was the first light station established on the North American continent, and the last in the United States to be fully automated. It's also our only light station that still retains an official keeper.

The first lighthouse was financed by a tax of a penny a ton on all vessels coming into the harbor, and the same amount for vessels leaving the harbor. Smaller coasting vessels paid only two shillings as they left the harbor. Fishing vessels and small vessels transporting lumber and other building materials locally were taxed five shillings yearly.



1853 painting by Fritz Hugh Lane (1804-1865)



# Coast Guard Heritage Museum

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## CGHM Officers

President: Greg Ketchen, CAPT, USCG (ret) • Vice President: H. F. "Buck" Baley, CAPT, USCG (ret)  
2nd Vice President: Patricia Garrity • Clerk/Secretary: Peter Eleftherakis  
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Jeremy Slavitz

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George Howe, CDR, USCG (ret); AMTCM Jacob Linder, USCG (active);  
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Victor Viola, BMC, USCGR (ret)



Visit us at [www.capecodmuseumtrail.com](http://www.capecodmuseumtrail.com)

Would you like to publish an article in our newsletter? Contact us at 508-362-8521.

Newsletter graphic design by West Barnstable Press

**Save the Date for the Members Only Evening - Saturday, August 5th, 2023**

*We look forward to the 2023 season!*

## BECOME A COAST GUARD HERITAGE MUSEUM MEMBER!

**Individual** - \$25 Single membership: attending annual meeting with no voting privilege, individual admission to the museum, and a 10% gift shop discount.

**Family** - \$40 Same as Individual, but with additional admissions to the museum for immediate family. One person may attend annual meeting with no voting privilege.

**Supporting Member** - \$100 Unlimited museum admission & 10% discount. This is for those who want to support museum but not actively participate.

**Sustaining Member** - \$250 For those who want to show a greater level of support for the museum. Unlimited admission and 10% discount apply.

**Guardian:** three donor levels – Guardians receive all benefits of membership. The Guardian category includes individual recognition at the museum. The three categories are: **Captain's Circle** - \$500+; **Admiral's Circle** - \$1,000+; **Commandant's Circle** - \$2,500+

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ USCG Connection (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level:**  Individual \$25  Family \$40  Supporting \$100  Sustaining \$250  
Guardian:  Captain's Circle \$500+  Admiral's Circle \$1,000+  Commandant's Circle \$2,500+

Make checks payable to: Coast Guard Heritage Museum and mail to Coast Guard Heritage Museum, P. O. Box 161, Barnstable, MA 02630

Credit Card:  Visa  Mastercard  Discover  AMEX

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

We are a 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to preserve and share the story of the U.S. Coast Guard in the former U.S. Custom House, Barnstable, MA.