

*Pat Allard Fritzenkotter, "45"*  
*3652 Brandywine Street*  
*San Diego, California 92117*

*Dear Pat,*

*Dr. John H. Tibbett*  
*Graduation Year 1949*  
*Address: P.O. Box 111*  
*Burr Oak, Michigan 49030*

*What a delight to know that I have what you need  
....Information.*

*Every day is a beautiful day. I know for sure, there is no such thing as being retired. Being seventy two going on infinity, I am reading, writing, singing, teaching, playing the piano, running cross country, training and showing my dobes and looking forward to the future. Oh yes, I am keeping my world war two engineering skills current by going to sea at least twice a year. I am still very much in love with my San Diego High and San Diego State friends that are really part of my very dear extended family.*

*My wife, Dr. Cathy, went to the Creative Leadership Executive Woman's Workshop in La Jolla this year. Cathy just keeps on shattering the glass ceiling. My children and grand children are alert, alive, and challenging the future too. Chris is playing in the Hillsdale College Symphony, Jahn is still on reserve for SAC while he flies left seat for Southwest Airlines. Mary Dell is still in medicine while she is nurturing her new baby. Carol Jean is still in medicine too. Ahn is teaching in New Hampshire and nurturing her own youngsters including a new offspring. Travis is an excellent student. Dahn, who was a great football star is now in the midst of his own business. His daughter, Ahn Marie, plays La Crosse and has a knee to prove it. Ahn Marie is going to college next year. She would be a great one for San Diego State. There is so much more to share, live, learn and enjoy.*

*When I was a student at San Diego State, then college, I was just trying to discover if I was really still alive after world war two. San Diego State gave me a great launch into this now very wonderful world. I love you all!*

*Voyage 1 2 8*

*S.S. PRESIDENT TYLER*

American President Line

*Delighted To Have You Aboard*

You Are A Black Gang Crew  
Member

USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

*The Events You Are About To Experience Are Not A Log,*

*Only My Own Thoughts Remembered Just For You*

*December 13,1992--January 23,1993*

**J.T.**

*Our Sea Going Name*

Dear Imagination Shipmate, **PAT**

*This is your S.S. President Tyler Holiday Cruise, 1993.*

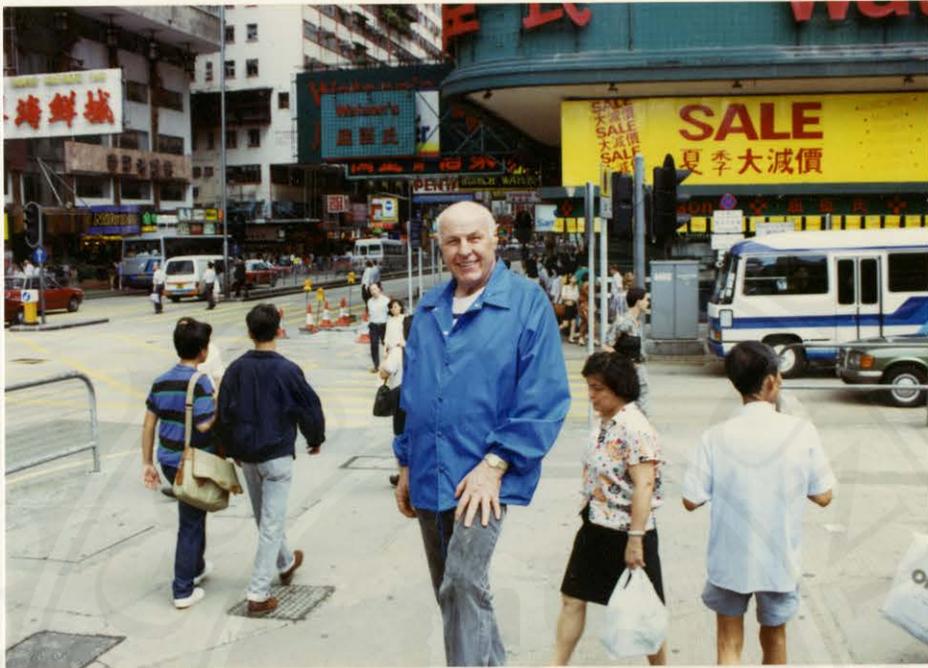
**STOW YOUR GEAR, MEET YOUR TYLER FAMILY**

**The S.S. President Tyler is having her Christmas Party at sea. There she is docked at Pier 5, American President Lines, Seattle, waiting patiently for her Voyage 128 Crew. Her decks seem seaworthy, even though rust and wear from the sea and salt air give her the character of an ole Japan Bear salt. Japan Bear is the original name of our ship. Master, John P. Jones is aboard. The word is that his lovely wife is aboard and taking the Holiday Cruise with us. Lowell Knudsen, Chief Mate, is drinking coffee in the lounge. Kjeld Lorentzen is on deck checking on our Christmas present containers. The Chief Mate is looking everywhere for Jeffrey Adamson.**

USMMA Deck Cadet, Michael is coming aboard. David Wilson, our M.R.E.O. is aboard too. Aaron M. Jones is going to be our Chief Electrician. He is wearing his beard to celebrate the Holiday Season. **My good friend, Edwards is leaving the ship. I will miss him. He is a fine shipmate.** He usually sails as Reefer. Michael Callahan is moving in my friend Edwards stateroom. Stephen M. Merel and his brother, Ronald T. Merel are members of our black gang. Ron and Steve are from California and are glad to be aboard. They are going to be good friends and hard working members of our sea going family.

**The S.S. Tyler, her bridge forward, proudly flies her maritime flags.** The changing crew, gear in hand are coming aboard, saying, "Hello," to the ship, their old friends, and their new shipmates. Crew gear is very different from when I first discovered the deck of a sea going vessel before World War II and went to sea. Today seamen bring computers, television, and sophisticated radio electronics to their staterooms. Everyone has their very own stateroom aboard the Tyler too. John J. Casey who flew over to Yokohama and replace a seaman who was ill during Voyage 127, will be with us as will Julian R. Sivley who is continuing aboard. Ray, has already made three or four voyages aboard the Tyler. **Be sure you take time to meet your sea going family, there are thirty eight aboard for this Holiday Cruise.**





## *"Hi There, Billy Boy III"*

Whenever I come to Seattle, I always enjoy sharing with my friend of twenty five years, Dr. Bill Stevens and his family. Bill and his family made their home aboard the Billy Boy 111 for very many years. This trip, Bill shares with me that the family has decided to come ashore and live in a beautiful house overlooking Puget Sound. The house must seem like living on a high mountain peak overlooking all of the Northwest. **Still, Billy Boy 111 is nestled at the Port Ludlow dock waiting for the family to say, "We are going to sea, Billy Boy 111."** What great and wonderful friends to have, including the Billy Boy III, of course.

### Our Ship And Her Crew Are Coming Together

The new crew and those who are staying aboard from last trip are making ready for this very special 1993 Christmas Voyage. Adding to the joys of the season, the S.S. Tyler will have her New Years Eve. at sea too. *We are delighted to have you join the Tyler and her crew family, at least in your imagination.* Manuel Rodrigues is our Bosun. He is an excellent seaman. Mike, Ted, Bob, Norm, Pete, Raymond, S.M., Elmer, and Tommy make up our very important Deck Crew.

Saturday, December 19, 1992 is also a good day for the crew to carry gear up the port side ladder. **Our proud ship, the Tyler, could use a few gallons of Christmas paint here and there to adorn her for this Holiday Voyage 128, 1993.** But, paint or not, she will look her most charming on this Holiday Voyage. She will likely receive a few brushes of paint during the voyage. She will enjoy being brushed on her decks and such. The crew demonstrating their positive attitude and excellent seamanship, will be able to give this Japan Bear, renamed the President Tyler, a sense of beauty and pride.

## OUR SHIP IS A PROUD LADY WHO LOVES THE SEA

In her heart, the Tyler will steam through the waves like the dignified lady of the sea that she is. The crew and you will make her feel proud that she is the Flagship of the Fleet. As you know, she is a sea worthy Flagship too," that she is mate." Part of our challenge this voyage, is to be certain that we make the Tyler feel self confident and sea worthy. I believe that ships of the sea do have a sense of the crew. Ships do have a rhythm that takes them steaming or sailing over the oceans and seas. This is her Holiday Voyage identified as 128. I am delighted to see my friend, my favorite barber, and ship mate Ted Jorgensen aboard. Ted and I have sailed together aboard that great ship, the S.S. President Grant. **What a wonderful voyage we had together. Ted was the most senior citizen when we were aboard the Grant.** On this voyage, I believe that I am going to be the most senior citizen on this Holiday Cruise.

**TIME TO SIGN ARTICLES. HAVE YOUR Z CARD WITH YOU.**

**Good morning Holiday World!** *Gerald Zane, our Purser, is having everyone sign Ships Articles, show our welcome aboard physical, Z card, and drug test. There is excitement in the air. Tis the week before Christmas 1992. Be sure to share your very first good morning feelings with our ship, the S.S. Tyler. You will have a good day aboard. Take a moment to pat our ship on her port side and she will know you care. You will probably send a quiver flowing through her hull. I am also sending a prayer home to the family. We wish you, love and joy this Holiday time.*

**WE WISH YOU A MERRY HOLIDAY**

I see that David Winter is aboard. When he is working in the engine room, he is easily mistaken for a base ball player on vacation instead of our Chief Engineer. I love his Benjamin Franklin glasses. When I see David in his glasses, I feel like we should be doing some Benjamin Franklin experiments this voyage. There are many interesting people in our sea going family this voyage 128.

## *THE CONTAINERS ARE COMING*

Coming aboard the ship this morning is a new container load. *Christmas packages coming aboard for Alaska, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Kobe, Yokohama, Okinawa, and all the wonderful global people waiting for our S.S. President Tyler to share a container with a Holiday Smile.*

Working in the engine room during our Coast Guard Inspection, Dennis is right in the action. I am delighted to see Dennis aboard. He is a sea going friend, as well as being an engineer. Dennis was aboard the Tyler with me two years ago, this Christmas. Al Duncan was the chief engineer. Duncan is a doberman man too. **A new voyage and a new crew usually means new relationships are being formed.** Oh yes, there are old friends sailing together one more time. Mark my watch mate is a bicycle whiz who has been riding around Europe like Cathy and I ride around Michigan for exercise. **We are becoming a Voyage 128 crew that the Tyler and you will enjoy.** The Tyler, She appreciates our care. She is making ready to make her 1992-1993 Holiday Voyage the best ever. J.D. Hopkins, Edward J. Rue, David Riggins, Timothy L. Ellis, Jimmis Bingham, and George G. Sampson, make our Stewards Department lively. **The Stewards Department crew members are very important to the joy, well being, and happiness of our Holiday Cruise crew.**

## COAST GUARD INSPECTION TODAY

Today the Tyler is having a United States Coast Guard inspection. **This Saturday, December 19, is very special to our ship! The Tyler crew is alert, awake and ready for our Seattle Port Coast Guard Inspection.** We will experience a Fire and Boat Drill with all the trimmings. **Our ship, she, thinks of the inspection as a positive opportunity to bring her crew together. The Tyler expects everyone to demonstrate that ship and crew are ready for sea, Christmas, New Year 1993, and Voyage 128 too.**

*I hope you are having an interesting time aboard. We are looking forward to having you with us as we enjoy our Holiday cruise. I believe, we have an interesting time to look forward to aboard our fine Flagship, President Tyler.*

## DOBES ABOARD

**As one crew member, my stateroom is already taking on a sense of Michigan, the University of Iowa, and home.** Mop and Glow is on the deck. All of the bulkheads, doors, chairs, head, and desk are cleaned and waxed. There is Kodak film in the refrigerator. Lady Hawk and Sinte, my doberman family and friends, have their pictures on the stateroom bulletin board. **Lady Hawk has her picture on the stateroom door.** Our dokes are aboard as pictorial shipmates. House of Woohitika dokes are also my welcome mat to my other shipmates.

**Doberman pictures give the room a feeling of being in the "House Of Woohitika."** Lady Hawk has her photograph on the stateroom door and she can, "Woof," to anyone sharing the port side of our deck. She gives a, "Wag and a," "Woof," as she greets our Tyler holiday visitors, you of course are included too!

## *Holiday Shipmates Are Getting Ready For Sea*

**There is an electric typewriter on my desk ready to write an anecdotal and narrative report of the voyage.** I also have a radio on board. At the moment, the radio I brought from Michigan is listening to a Seattle station play contemporary Christmas tunes. I am singing Jingle Bells with KIRO, Seattle. **I think most of the crew will enjoy being aboard the Tyler.** Each in their own way, crew members may sing, "I'll Be Home For Christmas, If Only In My Dreams." Dean Lacy, he calls himself, "Temporary Second Engineer," I wonder which Christmas music he enjoys most?

I have the 0800-1200 watch. Our Saturday morning work with the Coast Guard inspection in the engine room is always an interesting challenge. There are so many people attending our engine room inspection experience. With all of the excitement, I feel like we are all going to the big game in Pasadena. **I wonder if we will see the Big Ten representative, The University of Michigan, play football with The University of Washington in the Rose Bowl. Do you think that the University of Michigan Basketball Team will make the Final Four?**

During our Seattle Port time, the inspection and work time getting ready for sea, seems as crowded as being on Pasadena Avenue at the Rose Bowl Parade. **We are delighted you are here too.** Our reality check is the long list of checks and double checks being certain that our engine room and crew are really ready for Voyage 128.

**Amid the Charlie Hustle in the engine room, Saturday, a very pretty lady is observing all of the action. Naturally under the circumstances, we believe she is the new United States Merchant Marine Academy engine cadet. Dennis, our first engineer says with a smile, "She is my cadet, in fact the lady cadet is Nancy, my wife." What a delight to have her interested in our engine room Holiday Party. "Dennis, why don't you bring Nancy along on our Holiday Cruise?**

## Getting Ready For Sea, A Reality Check

Sunday, December 20, 1992, begins for me with my eyes wide open before the sunrise at five a.m. After morning acrobatic stretches and usual ablutions, I am ready to go on watch. I usually relieve the watch close to 0730 and 1930. I like to relieve the watch early. I appreciate the feelings that the 0400-0800 watch has done a good job and would like to clean up and get ready for breakfast or evening experiences as the case may be.

**We have the starboard boiler down for repairs.** We only have one fire alive in our port boiler. Our diesel generator is not operational at the moment. **Woops, we just lost the fire in the port boiler.** We have a crowd of spectators watching us perform our re-light procedure. Boiler alive again, we receive a hand of applause from our engine room fans. Then, everyone goes back to their work or play tasks. With all the repair work going on today, *I don't know how we ever passed the inspection yesterday.* *Must be Christmas!*

## SEA SPEED PLEASE

We depart beautiful Seattle in the rain at 1800. See you next year Billy Boy III, Sea Tac, Chicago, San Francisco, San Diego, and Michigan too. Puget Sound will take us out to the Pacific Ocean at about our twenty knot sea speed.

**Monday, December 21. I feel, the ship and her crew are glad to be at sea.** Gentle rolling and a sense of Holiday at sea enables the Tyler and her crew to feel right at home. Jon Archer, our real cadet from the United States Merchant Marine Academy says, **"This is my first time at sea."** Jon is a sophomore at the Academy. Jon is going to have a great sea going experience!

# FIRE AND BOAT DRILL 1300

Today, Monday, we have our first Fire and Boat Drill at sea. Just like in a real emergency, we report to our boat station and make ready to lower our life boat. We all wear our life jackets during the Life Boat Drill. Then, during the Fire Drill, we report to our emergency station for duty. Dennis, our First Engineer is the leader of our emergency team. We are really not together yet as a crew. But the Fire and Boat Drill does bring us together, initiating some feelings of togetherness.

Weather at sea is cool and clear. Our Boat Drill is a success. After the Boat Drill, we try on our Survival Gear Suits for fit and comfort and to be certain our Survival Suit equipment is ready for action. We need our Survival Suit just in case we have to go over the side. Staying alive in Alaskan waters could depend upon our Survival Suits.

## *Dutch Harbor, Santa, S.S. President Tyler Coming Your Way*

Holiday spirits are alive and well in our sea going environment. We are steaming toward Dutch Harbor, Alaska. We are playing Santa at Dutch Harbor. We will be delivering a few of our containers to some very special people. We expect to be taking on some containers for Asia too. This is like an exchange of presents.

Tuesday, December 22, 1992 is Slop Chest day. This afternoon we can go to our ships store managed by our Purser, Gerald Kane. Our Tyler store has many seamen items we need to be comfortable aboard ship. There are soft drinks, candy, and a few choice snacks too. Beer is available too.

The sea is calm. Our weather is cool. A few birds are flying in formation winging and waving Bon Voyage. **Our birds are also hoping for a Holiday treat too.** I think the birds really appreciate the loaf of bread, cookies, bagels, and cake we share with them as a Holiday treat.

A stroll on deck for exercise and to share my breath with the Pacific Ocean spray. Our sea temperature is forty degrees. In a few hours, Alaska snow flakes or rain drops will be bring us an Alaskan welcome. **Thousands of Puffins will Puff a greeting as we sail near Dutch Harbor.** Do you have your camera ready?

## ***GET READY FOR YOUR WATCH STANDING DUTIES***

Watch standing is very important as we sail along our Holiday Cruise course toward our first post of call, Dutch Harbor, Alaska. My stateroom buzzer sounds an alert as a ready signal for my watch. I hear the buzzer call at 0715 and at 1915. I am usually ready long before the buzzer sounds.

I name the 0400-0800 watch the farmers watch because that is the time many people on the farm arise to the day. Iowa farmers are up and ready for work. Wisconsin Dairy farms have their barn lights aglow long before the 0400-0800 watch is awake. The 1200-0400 watch is the big city night beat. Being on watch and alert from midnight until four in the early morning requires a Chicago, Seattle, New York, or Detroit midnight mentality. My watch is the 0800-0400 responsibility. This watch is the stock investors watch. You are up early before the market opens. You can watch the market, buy, trade, and sell before the market closes. The evening watch from 0800-1200 gives you time to analyze your portfolio. Do you have the Charles Schwab Equalizer Program on your computer?

## *Alaska Winds Keep Us Cool*

Wednesday, December 23, 1992 our S.S. Tyler Holiday Voyage 128 ship and crew begin to feel the touch of Alaska cold. Alaska cold makes you glad that you brought along your warm Michigan jacket. When you take your walk on deck, your breath is visible like the fog on a winter Michigan morning. However, Tyler engine room temperatures are warm at eighty degrees. There are no sea birds flying with us today. **Winds are at play, singing to us by whipping up a Holiday Wonderland song, "Winter Wonderland."**

*"I'll Be Home For Christmas, If Only In My Dreams."*

Thursday, December 24, 1992 Christmas Eve is here! **I wonder if Santa has us on radar?** Our ship is helping us to enjoy the voyage with smooth sailing. My radio is listening to Christmas music and holiday tunes via the Armed Forces Radio Waves. " We'll Take Manhattan and White Christmas" are two of the tunes my radio enjoys most. I wonder if there is a message that the radio is trying to sing to me." Is Santa going to be able to find the Tyler this year?

## *MERRY CHRISTMAS DUTCH HARBOR*

**We are getting ready to maneuver into Dutch Harbor.** Near the harbor and the shipping channel are snow capped rocks and hills. You can see a few fishing boats, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel, and our one American President Lines container crane. The giant crane hovers over the harbor waiting for our tug, the, " Sea Hawk," and our turbine to nestle our hull very close to our dock. There are Christmas lights in the American President Lines Office Trailer. **There is a distinct atmosphere of Holiday to enjoy as we arrive at this World War Two Submarine Base.** *Santa* will be able to find us this Christmas Eve. even without his special satellite and Rudolph radar system.

SECRET

I take time this Christmas Eve. for a Dutch Harbor Taxi ride over to the village of Unalaska. There is the school, closed for the holidays. There are a few people eating lunch at the local Pizza specialty restaurant. I can see our Tyler nestled against the dock across the bay. A United States Coast Guard ship is maneuvering into dock so the crew can spend Christmas ashore. Looking at the school, I wonder how all of the youngsters who attend the Unalaska School learn about Michigan, Seattle, Hong Kong, Yokohama, New York, and Wisconsin. Being able to sail aboard the Tyler around Asia would be a wonderful experience for the Unalaska children. Maybe the American President Lines could provide special passage scholarship for two students each voyage during 1993.

Our Alaska weather is cool and clear. The sun seems interested in showing us a Merry Christmas. We are spending just enough time at Dutch Harbor to enjoy beautiful down town Dutch Harbor and Unalaska. The roads are muddy, but Dutch Harbor has a fine General Store and an excellent Restaurant. The cafe is located in the Dutch Harbor Motel. There are holiday presents to buy at the general store. We have a tasty lunch, all you can eat Pizza, at the Motel restaurant. We have a great view of the harbor. I can imagine the submarines out there during World War II. I wonder if some of the submarines I saw out in the deep Pacific during World War II, came from this base. I wonder! There is so much to remember and so much to forget about those World War II experiences.

Our lunch and the view make for a delightful Christmas Eve party meal. There is just enough time in Dutch Harbor to deliver our Holiday Containers and to take a few new Holiday Containers aboard. Our new load will be riding with us to Asia. As we leave Alaska this afternoon, the Tyler crew waves a fond farewell and sings, "*Dutch Harbor, Alaska, We Wish Your A Merry Christmas.*" We are steaming out the channel, saying, "Goodbye," to our tug, the Sea Hawk, getting up to speed on Christmas Eve., and steaming toward Busan, Korea. Where are you Santa?

## OUR CHRISTMAS DAY 1993

**December 25, 1992, Christmas day in the morning and the sea is playing with the Tyler on a gentle roll. Joy to the world! What a wonderful day to be alive, sailing the Pacific Ocean, and being aboard the Flagship of the Fleet.** When I do my good morning stretches, I always feel as though life is getting enriched one more time, one day at a time. Since Ted and I have talked it over, checked the records, and considered the consequences, I am the most senior citizen on the Tyler, newly assigned the age of seventy two, I am working out, strolling the decks, avoiding high fat diets, and smiling as much as possible. I try to be in the best physical and mental shape possible for the watch and enjoying these beautiful Holiday days at sea.

Today is especially wonderful. Christmas is a very important moment in our Holiday Cruise. The sky is sending us a few rain drops to keep us company. Santa did come to visit our ship on this Holiday Cruise. Now, Santa is probably on His way back to the North Pole after a very busy global trip. "Thanks Santa." **I wonder if Santa went to Michigan and to Cincinnati this year.**

**Our 0400-0800 engineer, Bruce Huntington, decorated the engine room with holiday lights, blinking, blinking, and keeping our spirits bright.** Our Christmas luncheon gives our crew a great holiday feast. We have turkey, ham, pie, cake, and all of the trimmings. I follow our Happy Holiday meal with a stroll around the deck while I take time to pray and to sing a few favorite Carols. Hello all of you singing white caps. Your spray reaches out to us with salty fingers shaking hands and wishing the Tyler and her crew a Happy Holiday.

## **Christmas Day Aboard The S.S. President Tyler**

**Hear the waves sing and splash, Joy To The World  
just so the crew can join in and sing.**

**See the decks awash with rain and snow giving our ship a  
Christmas Day reality check.**

**Feel the Holiday spirits warmth and love in our house,  
in every stateroom, port, starboard, and on every deck.**

**Our steam, our turbines, and our crew celebrate  
The touch of Christmas starlight aboard the S.S.  
President Tyler.**

### *I Will Always Remember You*

Our S.S.Tyler Holiday Voyage continues. Christmas Eve, is only a beautiful memory. The sun has set on our Christmas Day at sea. For some members of the crew, these days have been a time for prayer, for introspection, for beginning a new and more positive life, for celebration, keeping the Tyler operational on course, and for thinking about home and family. Every Tyler crew member has their very own passion of feeling and thinking about Christmas as well as our Holiday voyage. For some members of the crew, another Christmas will happen when they are home again, somewhere in a house, a farm, a city, or where ever with their dearest loved ones and family. **I do believe the President Tyler is happy to have us all aboard this Holiday Time. We are able to share with her, each shipmate, each imagination voyager, in their own, unique style.**

## *PACIFIC OCEAN, WE ARE WITH YOURS*

**Saturday, December 26, 1992 makes me feel one with the gentle roll of the ship.** Time to get ready to go on watch. The sun is up and our steam energy keeps us steadily sailing toward Korea. The great Pacific Ocean is a superb environment for this passage. Comfort, not speed is ours this steaming Saturday. The Tyler is taking the day easy at ten knots, being a cruise ship, and heading toward Busan. My stateroom is quiet as I prepare to go on watch. There is time for a hot shower, shave, morning stretches, visiting with you on the typewriter, and taking a thoughtful moment looking through my porthole. The sound of the typewriter is the only sound I hear at the moment. Soon, I will be listening to the working turbine, roar of the fire in the **B** and **W** boiler fireboxes, and the hum of our main feed pump. We only have one operational main feed pump on this cruise. It is the kind of pump that you can say, "Don't leave home without it."

*Going on watch, I take a stroll down the starboard side. The sea and wind are having their very own symphony practice. Waves and wind seem to be sharing a special, "Good Morning." Waves and wind are easy with the Tyler and her crew this Saturday morning.*

Coming off watch at 1145, I take a breath of fresh air from the sea on my way to the house. **The weather is cool.** A few raindrops take the time to fall on my head. This is no time to sit on the deck and enjoy the sunshine. After lunch, I wash my clothes, read calculus, read the Bible, think through some First Aid, and think about the wonders of all these years enjoying the sea. San Diego beaches taught me the joy of splashing and interacting with the ocean. **Being aware of the touch and sound of the sea enriches my life. World War II at sea brought many challenges. But, the Statue of Liberty, the Golden Gate, and my family always seem to understand that the sea always keeps me safe and well loved. Now, maybe for just one more time, the sea and my shipmates, we are enjoying a Holiday together. I wonder where all of those shipmates are now ?**

## *International Date Line, "Hi There."*

Sunday, December 27, 1992 begins for me when I arise at 0530. I have to keep in mind when I think about tomorrow that we are crossing the international date line. Thinking about tomorrow is thinking about Tuesday. When I think about all of the people in that wonderful city, San Francisco, getting up, riding their bus, Bart, a taxi, bike, bicycle, or cable car to work, Monday will be their today. Tuesday will be our today. I hope my biological clock understands all of this retard the clock and forget about Monday time and day adjustments.

Breakfast, one banana, plain yogurt, a small can of pineapple juice, and five vitamins give me a nutritional beginning. Of course, there are my stretches to help the body get a head start on the day. Today, my deltoid and erector refuses to wake up and get with the program. Well, when I get on watch, I will lift a few burners and see if that helps. Dennis says, "We are going to have some twenty foot seas soon." What a time to practice deck rolling. We can eat standing, hope our table cloth doesn't slip and slide around the table, and enjoy the roll. I will let you know when and if the forecast of our First engineer comes true.

Sunday luncheon is a pleasant surprise meal. We have cornish hens, salad, pie, and chicken soup. Just right to warm the crew after all that snow and ice on deck this morning. Sunday weather at sea has smoothed out and we are enjoying our meal. All is well. I was thinking that Cathy would enjoy the ships roll just like when her family was coming home from Japan aboard a Navy vessel. Having a reality check, I will do my washing, read, and take a nap while the sea tosses a salad of whitecaps on the deck. We are actually in the middle of a blizzard at sea. We can enjoy this great Michigan weather.

**Tuesday, December 29, 1993 seems like Monday. What a delightful way to wonder what happened to Monday. Just eliminate Monday as if Monday is a day you would rather not have on your calendar. Of course, you are being helped along with a reality check. You are crossing somewhere near the international date line. You might like to be out in the Pacific Ocean about the 180th meridian and lose or gain a day depending on whether you are east or west bound.**

**Sometimes if you really like a day and want to live that day awhile, you can choose keeping that particular day. You can have two Mondays or two any days you might enjoy. The crew of the Tyler will have their chance to have enjoy two especially good Fridays when we are steaming home to Seattle. We will be near where we are now in our longitude reading. You can imagine and have yourself your very own ship out here and have some very interesting days of the week. Anyway for today, we have no Monday and our day is Tuesday.**

I am awake and planning to meet and be in the midst of this day. Looking at my watch, the time is 0500. Time to rise and say, Good morning S.S. Tyler and all of my shipmates. There are two watches to prepare for today. I will be sharing engine room time with my excellent watch mate, Mark, along with our evaporator, turbine, boilers, pumps, all of our systems, and of course our propeller shaft.

I believe that the Tyler and all of her operational and stationary systems are my friends. The ship has a sense of how each member of the crew feels about her. Personally, the Tyler is one of my best friends. We have been together for about four years. We care about each other. There is the stroll on deck, exercise, talking to the sea, visiting the mess hall and my refrigerator for a bite of nourishment.

This is my week to be on meal relief. So, I have the opportunity to talk to the turbines from 0430 until 0530 or so. I also have time to share with our second engineer, Dean Lacy. New Years Eve. is only a few watches away now. So we can make our New Years resolutions and think about how great year 1993 will be. What a wonderful year 1992 too. This year has been giving, sharing, loving, and communicating some of the best of life. *I am looking forward to all of the exciting surprises, challenges, and loving experiences which will certainly happen in 1993.* We will share all of those experiences with you next year at this time.

Fire and Boat Drill today at 1300. There is washing to take to the laundry. We retarded the clocks again one hour last night. The washing will be in the dryer by 1400. After the Fire and Boat Drill, I will take time for an energizing stroll around the deck. Our weather is cool enough to make a coat necessary. Sea spray is always in the air. **My walk today is a fine time to enjoy the sea and the 1992 winter frolics in the North Pacific.**

December 30, 1992 our position is Latitude 46-10 North, Longitude 151-16 East. We have steamed a distance of 1727.7 miles. Our total average speed is 14.34 knots. We still have 1227 miles to steam. Can you believe that 1992 is almost a memory. Looking around the planet for evidence of this 1992 and the impact of the year on our lives, there are many memories to love. There are a few deep sorrows that will be with for a very long time. New life has enabled me to reach out and discover what being seventy two is all about. Every morning is another beautiful day to be alive.

*OH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

**New Years Eve. is finally with us. Our position is Latitude 42-21 North, Longitude 144-44 East. Happy New Year and our Holiday Cruise is heading for Korea. My deck stroll today is a cool delight. The Japanese Sea Gulls are out in force to greet us as we steam near Japan. The sun is out beautifully. Since the wind is brisk, I am enjoying the salt air whipping across my face. Today is the first bright and sunny day that we have seen since we steamed out through Puget Sound.**

**The birds seemed to enjoy their Holiday flight accompanying the Tyler through their native waters. A great display of high speed turns, slow flight, and formation flying kept my attention during my stroll on deck. The Gulls watch for special Holiday treats. Loaves of bread, muffins, cookies, and bagels make great Gull treats. Gulls seem to wave their wings as they fly their New Years Eve. formations. I believe that we are south of Hokkaido Island and north of Honshu. We will be steaming through the Tsugaru Strait probably this evening. I can see a town of the rising sun through my binoculars. If we could stop at the grocery store, I would buy our feathered friends some more muffins.**

**New years evening is cool and clear. Just think of it, the entire planet, all of the water, wind, wildlife, and human population will be meeting the challenges of 1993 together. Happy New Year planet earth. Happy New Year to especially you.**

**January 1,1993, can you believe we finally made this particular New Year. Reach out and touch the world. Have a reality check on the great things to be accomplished during this 1993 challenge year. This is your wake up call for your future.**

**We have a real New Years feast today. There is turkey, alaskan crab legs, fish, and all you can eat. Our sea temperature is fifty degrees F. What a Friday afternoon. I have taken a deck stroll, visited with the sea gulls, and laugh with the white caps. The air is cool and clear. Times Square New Years Eve. is on the Armed Forces Radio this afternoon. Happy New Year Times Square. Happy New Year Michigan. Happy New Year President Tyler.**

**January 2, 1993 good morning sea gulls. The radio is keeping the crew up to the minute with New Years Day football games. We are about five hundred miles out of Busan. We are expecting to arrive at the Pilot at 0800. Our watch will be on the maneuvering team. I always enjoy the maneuvering proceedings.**

**Saturday evening, Michigan won the Rose Bowl game and all is well. The sky is very Michigan Blue. Our winds are friendly. Our engine room temperature is over 85 degrees. I hope our stocks are climbing too. I am looking forward to our evening watch.**

### ***SURPRISE, WE ARE GOING TO A KOREAN WEDDING***

**Sunday, January 3, 1993 and we are docked comfortably at Busan, the port for Pusan Korea. Kim, the Korean lady who brings many Korean shoes, leather jackets, and other interesting presents to sell aboard ship is getting ready to go ashore. I am not planning a tour of Texas Street, so I am staying aboard. I am standing at the gangway. Kim needs help carrying her wares off the ship. Being a good Eagle Scout, which indeed I am, I offer to help Kim with her gangway departure. Kim hands me a shopping bag to carry for her to the Customs Gate. Kim and her friend chat in Korean. I shared in the conversation too.**

I intend to say, "Thank You" when we arrive at the gate. Not really, we walked to the Pusan Bus number 34 and Kim paid my fare with a Korean token. We were on our way to Texas Street. Kim told me all about the neighborhoods as we traveled. She told me some things about the Korean culture too. Kim said, "We are going to a wedding." Great, here I am in my watch clothes and we are going to a wedding.

We follow the bus passenger crowd and get off the bus at Texas Street. Six women friends of Kim greet us and take us off to the wedding. The women are smiling, having a wonderful time, and are all my friends because they are friends of Kim. Some of the most friendly people are joining our family. The men are dressed with suits and the women are wearing very beautiful silk Korean style silk dresses. I ask Kim about the envelope she is carrying, "Tell me about the envelope." Kim tells me, "Our tradition is to give money to the bride and groom." I reach in my wallet and join in the family tradition.

The wedding party and guests go up a flight of winding stairs to the Wedding Chapel. At the rear of the chapel are two large box like structures. They are about the size of a jet engine carton. The boxes are painted white and decorated with Korean Art. Over the door of one box is the Korean word for groom. Over the door of the other box is the Korean word for bride. The groom is already in his box. The door is closed. The most lovely Korean bride swishes into her box. She receives her friends, has her picture taken and obviously is very happy. As a friend of Kim, I am introduced to the bride. She smiles with the joy of the moment. What a delight for me to be in the midst of my very first ever Korean wedding.

The wedding begins with some very special wedding music. The mother of the bride comes to the wedding alter and lights a candle. The mother of the groom comes to the wedding alter and she lights a special candle too. An atmosphere of joy and great love is here. You can feel the happiness of this moment.

The groom is wearing his wedding suit. He has a very happy and loving smile on his handsome face. He comes out of his box and walks down the aisle. He turns to face his bride. He is standing on the port side of the wedding alter. The bride, beautiful and delighted with the wedding is wearing a spectacular white wedding gown. The music continues and she takes her brothers arm and gracefully strolls down the aisle to meet her husband to be. The brother of the bride was her escort. All of the guests smile with loving and joyful approval. What a wonderful moment for all to share. There is magic in the atmosphere. A television camera is recording the event for memories to always keep alive. When the camera lens sees Kim and her friends in focus, there too is the envoy from the S.S. President Tyler holiday Cruise. The wedding is wonderful and beautiful just as the event should be. What an ecstatic event to enjoy on this Holiday Cruise!

Kim walked me arm in arm to where I could get a ride back to the ship with our Shuttle Bus. Going back to the ship and the world of our Holiday Cruise was a smile all the way home. What a lovely afternoon to remember. I am so glad that I am an Eagle Scout.

Monday, January 4, 1993 in Busan Harbor, the hour is 0500, and we are preparing to sail for Kaoshuing. The Korean flag will be replaced by the flag of the Republic of China. The notice on the bulletin boards, "A Lost Shore Pass At Busan Can Cost You Money," is no longer relevant. We are heading out to sea continuing our Holiday Cruise.

Tuesday, January 5, 1993 and the sea temperature is at the sixty degree level. We are steaming with 475 pound steam at about 94 RPM. Fire and Boat Drill today at 1300. The ship is enjoying a happy rolling experience. Ten foot waves are our singing sea choir today. During our Boat Drill, we muster at the boat to which we are assigned according to the ships station bill. We lower the boat with the sea painters out forward. The we raise the boat and secure. We answer the Fire Drill at our emergency station. Our task this drill is to prepare to fight a fire from fire station seventeen.

## **KAOHSIUNG, REPUBLIC OF CHINA, TAIWAN**

We will arrive at Kaohsiung tomorrow morning. We are going to dock at our Taiwan dock and then shift the Tyler to the A.P.L. docking facility. According to our schedule, we will be at Taiwan overnight. We plan to depart Kaohsiung Thursday and steam to Naha, Okinawa. We should be in Naha Saturday. We will take the schedule as she goes, one day at a time and enjoy every moment of our Holiday Cruise experiences.

I have my Michigan Pioneer Seed hat on at the moment. This is the hat Paul Griffin gave to me. I wear this hat on special occasions like strolling the deck and singing to the waves. **Today our wave choir is a jazz choir.** The waves bring their symphony group, their church choir, Broadway Show ensemble, Country Music Spray Orchestra, University Swing Choir, and sometimes their New York Music Hall Choir and Orchestra. I have a great time at the Wave Musical Theater. The sky provides for superb acoustics. There are an infinite number of front row seats. You can sit in the balcony too if you choose. Birds and fish enjoy the concerts too. Join us at this moment and have the time of your life.

Wednesday, January 6, 1993 the hour is 0540 and we are ready to maneuver to our Taiwan dock. Going ashore at Kaoshuing is the topic of crew conversation. Leather coats, silk suits, a tour of the city, a few beers, and playing tag with the traffic keeps the anticipation conversation interesting. There is a very special shop where the merchandise pertains to the sea. There are anchors, sextants, clocks, ships bells, rings, and watches. The culture and heritage of the sea is here and for sale. There are great shops to visit throughout Kaohsiung. Lets maneuver and then go ashore together.

Being a dog and puppy person, I am always aware of how I can interact and share with my animal friends. Here we are in the Republic of China, Taiwan, and I am going off the ship in search of a telephone so I can call home to Michigan. I found the telephone. I also found a puppy friend there to greet me and welcome the ship to his homeland. He was very hungry. So, back to the ship I go in search of some food for my four legged tail wagging Taiwan friend. Bread and butter would be a good start. Peanut butter and a little meat would be just right too. Meal in hand, I return to share with the puppy and friends too. They are waiting for me with a wag and a happy bark. What a feast! Just right for puppy Taiwanese who are taking the time to say, "Woof," to a friend from Michigan. We have a great sharing with smiles, tail wagging, head patting, and happy barking. *I am so happy that I took this Holiday Cruise. We may never meet again. But, the puppies and I have shared some happiness that will last forever.*

Walking around the dock for exercise after my evening meal, a young man gave me a ride in his A.P.L. Van. "I have four children," he said as we toured the dock area. I told the young man, "My wife is an educator. She will send you some things for your children when I return home to Michigan." What a delight! We are docked in the right place at the right time. We have another friend in Taiwan.

## **NAHA, OKINAWA JUST OVER THE HORIZON**

January 7, 1993, we are steaming toward Naha, Okinawa. Our position at 1200 is Latitude 22-06 North, Longitude 120-24 East. **Our ship and crew are enjoying the San Diego weather.** The Tyler is steaming at over twenty two knots. We will be docking at Naha tomorrow about this time. We are advancing the clocks one hour tonight. This evening, we will have a watch that is shorter by twenty minutes.

My washing is being taken care of by our washer and dryer. **Lunch is spring chicken and rice. There is a piece of pie and ice cream for dessert.** This afternoon is a fine time to take my exercise and musical stroll around the deck. There are waves to sing with, the sun to share in my exercise, and our working cruise ship to enjoy. There are no sea birds escorting us today. A few cumulus clouds are flying with us at 2000 feet. Hello world, I am glad to be alive, seventy two, and still enjoying the sea.

Our engine room temperature is above 110 degrees. During the summer, when we are sailing on this ocean, our engine room temperature discovers 120 degrees.

Steve, just came by to visit. "How is your day?"

"Pretty good. My work up forward is completed."

"Are you enjoying this beautiful weather?"

"This is just like California, it is beautiful."

"Have you received any mail from your wife and children?"

"Oh yes, and I am going to call them when we get to Naha."

"See you J.T."

### *Where Is The Spa?*

**Saturday, January 9, 1993** and we are maneuvering into Naha, Okinawa. Dennis says, "I know where there is a great Japanese place to have a hot tub, massage, and just relax. We can go to the Seaman Club, call home, and then go get in a hot tub."

"I will go along, but I have to watch the time in order to get back to the ship in time for my watch." Dennis, Steve, Dean, and I walk over to where we can take a cab. Dean says, "Hey, J.T. you are a walker."

"Yes, that is the only way to get around in Michigan."

"I think Mark is going for an exercise walk too."

"There is a great shopping center near the Club."

"I don't have time to shop this trip."

The Seaman Club has a dining room, a bar, and an international telephone booth. "Hello there A T and T. I am glad you have your satellite on the line. I would like to make a call to Michigan"

Back on the ship engine room chatter begins to feel like we are ready to take the Tyler home to Seattle.

"You say that you are going to take Saturday for a vacation when we get back to Seattle."

"What are your going to do with all that time?"

"First, I am going to see my parents."

"See your family?"

"Yes, then I have a motorcycle to take care of."

"A motorcycle friend."

"One of the best. I like the B.M.W. The new ones have and in line engine."

"We used to have a Honda 750. Cathy and I rode that bike all over the Ohio, Illinois, and Michigan. We found all of the thunderstorms in the midwest."

"When we get home, I am going to take a peek at the new Harley."

Our evening meal is a turkey sandwich and rice. We have some other choices. There is always some beef on the menu. We have Iowa pork, lamb, chicken, and fish too. But, the best meals on this Holiday voyage naturally are the Holiday meals. Even the birds that escort the ship enjoy the feasts. I wish that we would have another Holiday just so we could have another feast.

## *Steaming Back For Another Short Busan Visit*

**The temperature on deck is cool and the wind is fresh** with high oxygen content. Great weather for a stroll around the deck. Now and then we are experiencing a rain shower. We are steaming toward Busan. This will be our second visit this voyage. We can take a shuttle bus down to Texas Street just in case we forgot something last time.

Sunday School Day, January 10, 1993 and Busan is on the horizon. **We are planning for a 1200 arrival.** The weather is turning cool. But, the Shuttle Bus always has many passengers for the ride down to Texas Street. Maneuvering into Busan is on our watch. The maneuvering team is relaxed and doing a fine job this morning.

**Conversation off watch continues to carry the feeling that our Holiday Voyage is on the way home.** Dennis, our first engineer is getting off this trip. He is going to work on his house, enjoy his family, and play with his youngsters. He always seems to brighten up and smile when he talks about his wife, Nancy, and his youngsters. When we are at the Seaman Club in Pusan, I see Dennis talking to his wife on the telephone. I am going to call home too. There is never enough time to share all of the ship experiences with the family. **I meet Steve and brother Merel shopping in Pusan. There are always plenty of gifts to buy for the right price on Texas Street or in the Underground shops.**

Taking a walk from the Pusan Seaman Club through the tunnel, Texas Street and beautiful down town Pusan is ours for shopping. I don't find any weddings today. **Touring the shops, there are shoes, shoes, leather coats, hats, jewelry, food being sold from street carts just like in Laredo and New York.** The Pusan environment always seems friendly. I wish that I could speak the language that I hear as I walk along the busy streets of Pusan. American education never seems to get us language ready for our global voyages. I have to rely on smiles and happy nods to help me communicate when I am doing my shopping.

Monday, January 11, 1993 and the Purser is letting us know that we are on the way home.

ALL HANDS

PLEASE COMPLETE

END OF VOYAGE

PAYROLL

QUESTIONNAIRE

AND RETURN TO

PURSER'S OFFICE

TODAY.

THANK YOU!

I always like the way our Purser says, "Thank You."

## *KOBE, I YOU HAVE A GREAT LIGHTHOUSE*

We are sailing for Kobe, Japan, one of my favorite ports on the planet. I recall that when Ted S. sailed with me on this very ship, Ted always had his lovely wife come down to the ship when we came to Kobe. There is a wonderful shopping spree waiting for you in Kobe. A beautiful hotel and shops and shopping mall is within walking distance from the dock. However, this voyage, the planning will have us arrive in the evening and sail too early in the morning for us to go ashore. *We miss shopping with you Kobe. In the old days, when a ship arrived at a port of call. There was time to enjoy the culture, the people, and their greatness. Now, we do have a time trying to appreciate the wonders of our global travels.*

**Fire and Boat Drill today!** Our weather is clear and cool. The drills keep the crew alert and ready for emergencies that we hope will never happen. Up to our boats we go, wearing life jackets as we make the boats ready for lowering. The sea painters are ready. The boats are lowered, then raised and made secure again. Once the boat drill is completed, we go have our Fire Drill and proceed to our Emergency Station.

The next few days are busy with our watches, thinking about home, and steaming through the Japan waters. We complete our short stop to deliver our presents, containers, to Kobe. Then, we steam for Yokohama. There is conversation about who is making another voyage and who is leaving at the end of voyage 128. Yes, there is an atmosphere of steaming toward Seattle.

## *YOKOHAMA, YOUR PORT IS LIKE A CHICAGO EXPRESSWAY*

**Thursday, January 14, 1993 and the tugs are helping us to arrive and depart Yokohama.** We are maneuvering through the misty Yokohama weather. *Yokohama is another of my favorite cities. I would love to go ashore and have dinner and go shopping with my friends.* But, with our Santa visit here, there is no time to go ashore. So, see you later Yokohama. The ship seems to be steaming with enthusiasm, Seattle is going to be next on our horizon. **There is a distinct weather change soon after we depart Yokohama. We are steaming using most of the great circle route toward Seattle. This is really saying that the shortest distance between two points is a curve, a great circle curve.**

### **We Are On The Great Circle Course**

**Friday, January 15, this is Friday number one. Now, we are going to find the day we lost on our voyage west. "Hello there international date line."** During World War II, we used to have a celebration and a ceremony when we said, "Hello," to the international date line. Today there is just one more day to steam with not even a feast for lunch. Things have changed over the years, not in space, but only in the way we seem to perceive our travel through time and space.

The book I am reading today is, "Looking For A Ship." I rather enjoy the quote, **"A merchant ship is a ship steaming somewhere at nineteen knots with a dog on the bridge, alone on watch."** I hope the dog is a Woohitika doberman. I don't know about the bridge, but I do know that ship has a Woohitika doberman on watch in the engine room. The engine room watch dog is probably a Woohitika Champion U.D. dog too.

We are steaming at 500psi. We are making over ninety turns on our shaft. I hope the fish have their eyes open and see us steaming through their ocean. There are no traffic lights out here only port and starboard and running lamps. Our sea temperature is forty degrees for the moment. We are used to seeing the notice, ADVANCE CLOCKS ONE HOUR TONIGHT. We have to get our ship and our crew back toward Pacific time.

There always seems to be a time and date lag in our biological systems while we adjust to time and space. **Talk aboard is sharing who is making another trip and who is going ashore.** For those who are completing their Holiday Voyage 128, they will be heading home with only the memories of the S.S. President Tyler. Maybe they will be back to enjoy her one more time. **Maybe next year there will be just one more Holiday Voyage.**

I understand that Dennis, our First Engineer has decided to make another trip. One of my favorite seaman, barber and friend, Jorgenson is going home. I am going home, of course, and my two friends Merle and Steve say they are making one more trip. Mark, my watch partner says that he is staying aboard until March. Wow! *One of the things about going to sea is that your sea going family always comes and goes with the voyages. Still, there are friends that are with you for life too. You may never see them again. But, the friendship is there in the midst of your shipmate memories.*

### **DID YOU FEEL THE SHIP TAKE THAT EARTHQUAKE!**

Did you feel the quiver of the ship? We could feel the ship responding to the ocean. The ship is on alert. The Captain is on the bridge. The Chief engineer is checking with the engine room. We discover that there is an earthquake in Japan. The shock came right out to sea and alerted the Tyler too.

Saturday, the real Saturday January, 16, 1993 at least from the point of time and date in Seattle, and the Tyler and her crew will be in Seattle this time next week. We are advancing the clocks every day. My body says, "You are supposed to be sleeping." My brain says, "Don't listen to that ole body, it is time to go on watch." **Look what our Purser says to us.**

**ALL CREW MEMBERS:**

**LAST OPENING**

**SLOP CHEST**

**CASH ONLY**

**THANK YOU**

***SEATTLE, I KNOW YOU ARE THERE***

Oh my, I wish I could get my body and brain together. Deck walking is most invigorating now. **The wind and the waves keep telling me we are winter bound. Walking on deck gives me a season reality check.** Armed forces radio says it is raining in San Diego. Beautiful San Diego, where I have family and so many friends. I hope they have their umbrellas with them today. **My San Diego High School classmates and San Diego State alumni should be enjoying the Mission Beach, La Jolla, and Balboa Park. I wish them a "Happy Day." I love them all. How about another turn around the deck?**

This week is really up to speed. There is the birthday of Martin Luther King on Monday. Tuesday is cool and windy. There is snow in Michigan. Time to visit Ted, my barber, and have a trim, so neat and comfortable. Wednesday, we are listening to the Armed Forces radio waves report of our new President Clinton and the readiness for his inauguration. Let us hope he pays attention to the people who elected him. Only time will tell. We are getting down to the last few watches of our Holiday Voyage 128. I will miss this ship and my ship mate friends. The pantry offers me one more apple for dinner. Time to think about a home cooked meal.

**The ship and container presents from Asia will be docking at the APL docks in the morning. I hope the United States enjoys the presents from Asia. I expect to see a few APL vans from our ship on Chicago expressways next week. We might even have a few Tyler presents in Michigan too.**

*Maneuvering through Puget Sound, the day is clear and cool. We steam passed a submarine surfaced in the Sound. There is an aircraft flying cover for the submarine. Our dock is just around the bend, just over the horizon. What a wonderful time to come home. Thank you President Tyler for this very special Holiday Cruise. I am delighted you have been with our ship this Voyage 128. I love you. You are the greatest.*

**YOU HAVE BEEN ABOARD**

**THE FLAGSHIP**

**S. S PRESIDENT TYLER**