

JOINT RELEASE BY:

SIU-Pacific District
450 Harrison Street, S.F.

and

Pacific Maritime Association
16 California Street, S.F.

RELEASE DATE: APRIL 13, 1964.

SEAMEN'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION CENTER
OPENED TODAY FOR SAN FRANCISCO PORT.

San Francisco, April 13, 1964.

A Medical Examination Center, for West Coast seamen, opened today (April 13) at 40 Lansing Street, to serve seafarers who ship from the Port of San Francisco. The Center, a negotiated collective bargaining benefit, is operated jointly by the Seafarers' International Union-Pacific District, and the Pacific Maritime Association, a maritime employers' group. For the first time in the industry's history, members of the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, the Marine Firemen's Union, and the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union are covered by a single, jointly agreed upon, set of physical standards. The clinic also is available to the Marine Staff Officers. It is expected that this unique medical program will be extended to the other major PMA Pacific Coast ports in the near future. The Agreement between the parties, provides, also, that the Plan may be extended to cover other maritime unions.

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The specially designed diagnostic Center occupies 6,000 square feet of ground floor space and is one of the best planned and equipped medical facilities on the West Coast. It is set up to give periodic physical examinations, pre-employment examinations, and necessary inoculations or vaccinations for men and women who sail West Coast American Flag ships.

The clinic will operate 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Its main function is to afford seamen periodic, proper physical examinations. Its chief aims, according to Morris Weisberger, Executive Officer of the SIU-Pacific District, and J. Paul St.Sure, President, Pacific Maritime Association, are to protect seafarers from going to sea with unsafe or unknown physical ailments, to protect ship operators from hiring physically unfit men, and to apply the principles of preventive medicine to seamen by detecting incipient illness and physical defects before they become serious handicaps. Diagnosed defects will be referred to a U.S. Public Health hospital, to private practice, or to a city hospital -- at the option of the patient.

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The Center functions under the direction of Dr. John L. Wilson, who has been on its planning staff since November 18, 1963. Dr. Wilson is a nationally known physician, with extensive knowledge of the medical problems of seamen. He has managed hospitals and has had 30 years of experience with the U.S. Public Health Service. Assisting Dr. Wilson are one other full time doctor, four part time physicians, an administrative officer, a nurse, three technicians and other ancillary personnel.

Responsible for joint policy and the overall broad operation of the Center are six management-union trustees. For the employers these include J. Paul St.Sure, Wayne L. Horvitz, vice president, Industrial Relations, Matson Navigation Company, and Hubert Brown, vice president, Labor Relations and Personnel Administration, Pacific Far East Line, Inc. Representing SIU-Pacific District are Morris Weisberger, Sailors' Union of the Pacific, William W. Jordan, Marine Firemen's Union, and Ed Turner, Marine Cooks and Stewards Union.

Agreement on the Center was reached in 1957 and PMA's employers of offshore unlicensed personnel have been contributing five cents per man-day since October of that

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year into a fund to finance the clinic. Participating employers, who operate approximately 120 ships, include Alaska Steamship Company, American Mail Line, American President Lines, Grace Line, Matson Navigation Company, Moore-McCormack Lines, Pacific Far East Line, States Steamship Company, West Coast Steamship Company, and Weyerhaeuser Line. Non-PMA companies, which have collective bargaining contracts with the covered unions, may become contributing employers and participate in the Clinic Plan, under joint approval provisions of the Medical Center Agreement.

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Note to Editors: Center's Director Dr. Wilson invites opening day coverage and also cameramen if you desire photos.

Center's phone number is: EX 2-3611

F A C T S H E E T

SEAMEN'S MEDICAL EXAMINATION CENTER

Location: 40 Lansing Street, San Francisco. Phone: EX 2-3611.

Opening Date: Monday morning, April 13, 1964 for the Port of San Francisco. Office hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Joint trustees will determine when program will go into effect in other major Pacific Coast ports.

Sponsors: Pacific Maritime Association, 16 California Street, San Francisco -- a maritime employers' group, and Seafarers' International Union-Pacific District, 450 Harrison Street, San Francisco. The Pacific District Unions are: Sailors' Union of the Pacific, 450 Harrison Street, Marine Firemen's Union, 240 Second Street, and Marine Cooks & Stewards Union, 350 Fremont Street. Center is a negotiated collective bargaining benefit.

Coverage: Unlicensed personnel who fill the jobs on approximately 120 West Coast based American Flag ships operated by: Alaska Steamship Company, American Mail Line, American President Lines, Grace Line, Matson Navigation Company,

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Moore-McCormack Lines, Pacific Far East Line, States Steamship Company, West Coast Steamship Company, and Weyerhaeuser Line. Approximately 15,000 employees are covered on the West Coast; about 50% ship from San Francisco. Clinic also is available to Marine Staff Officers, who are the ships' pursers.

Operation: The Center will give each seagoing employee an annual (or more frequent) complete physical examination for which a "Q" health card will be issued. The clinic will also give pre-sign on examinations, vaccinations, and "shots" required for specific voyages.

Men "signing-on" from the Union Halls who have "Q" health cards will still be required to be physically checked for "sign-on." Those who do not have "Q" cards will be given a complete physical and a "Q" card will be issued, as well as a "fit for duty slip" for "sign-on."

Men reporting to the Union Hall for registration for shipping will present their "Q" cards when they present their Union identification. For all practical purposes, "sign-on" physical examination will be the same as at present except that the clinic will perform the examination.

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Aims: The medical program of the Center aims to promote the physical and mental well-being of all employees.

Specific purposes are:

1. To operate an efficient system for providing regular physical examinations, with a single set of standards, to replace past, varied practices.
2. To protect individual seamen against going to sea with an unsafe (or unknown) ailment which could be aggravated by such employment; and to protect him against the possibility of having to sail with shipmates not in acceptable physical condition.
3. To protect the ship operator, insofar as possible, against the likelihood of hiring physically unfit seamen.
4. To apply the principle of preventive medicine to seamen by detecting incipient illness and physical defects before they become serious handicaps, and to assist the operation of the U. S. Public Health Service by immediate referral of such cases -- thus reducing the amount of time, effort and money that would otherwise be required to cure more serious illnesses.

Facilities: 6,000 square feet of ground floor space, specially designed, constructed, and equipped. Equipment and facilities include: audiometer, electrocardiogram, Odelca 4x4 inch X-ray camera, vision testers; full diagnostic equipment in eyes, ears, nose and throat, laboratories, X-ray, four examination rooms.

Medical equipment was secured from Western Surgical Supply Co., South San Francisco.

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Architect: The Center was designed by Francis L. Whisler, AIA, to specifications determined by Dr. John L. Wilson, Director. Oscar Presco & Sons, San Francisco, did the building and equipment installation. Interior design was done by Robert-Morry Company, Inc., San Francisco. Building operations on Center began January 1, 1964.

Costs: Cost of building, equipment, equipment installation, and furnishings amounted to approximately \$205,000. It is estimated that the initial annual cost of operating the Center will be approximately \$146,000. Financing is from an employer-paid fund started in October 1957 (five cents per unlicensed man-day) when agreement was reached on the project.

Staff: Initial Staff of the Medical Examination Center includes:

Dr. John L. Wilson, Director

Dr. Charles R. Mallary, other full time physician

Dr. W. Shudde)
Dr. A. Taylor) Part time physicians
Dr. W. Y. Hollingsworth)
Dr. H. H. Carroll)

C. W. Nicolary, Administrative Officer

Mrs. Wilma Brodale, Registered Nurse

George Molnar, medical technician

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Edmond McClure, X-ray technician

John Gunning, general technician

Miss Mary Casserly, secretary-receptionist

Tim Jenkins, Porter

Trustees: Six management-union trustees and their alternates are responsible for overall policy and the broad operation of the Center. They are:

For the Employers

Trustees

J. Paul St. Sure, President
Pacific Maritime Association

Wayne L. Horvitz, Vice Pres.
Industrial Relations
Matson Navigation Company

Hubert Brown, Vice Pres.
Labor Relations & Personnel Administration
Pacific Far East Line

Alternates

B. H. Goodenough, Vice Pres.
Labor Relations, PMA

Capt. Dale Collins, Manager
Industrial Relations Dept.
American President Lines

Capt. John D. Knox, Vice Pres.
Operations & Industrial Rel.
Weyerhaeuser Line

For SIU-Pacific District

Morris Weisberger, Sec-Treas. Jack Dwyer, Asst. Sec-Treas.
Sailors' Union of the Pacific Sailors' Union of the Pacific

William W. Jordan, President Alex Jarrett, Vice Pres.
Marine Firemen's Union Marine Firemen's Union

Ed Turner, Sec-Treasurer Frank Gomar, Asst. Sec.
Marine Cooks & Stewards Marine Cooks & Stewards