

CG Cutter Munro to Patrol Alaskan Waters

The Seattle-based Coast Guard Cutter Munro sailed on Alaskan waters for the first time ever Jan. 12, to ensure that fishery laws and treaties are being observed. The 378-foot cutter was recently transferred from Boston to replace two cutters which were decommissioned.

When the Munro began its patrol it marked the 106th year of what has come to be known as the Alaska Patrol.

In 1868, the cutter Wayanda cruised the waters of Alaska with orders to prevent the illegal killing of fur bearing animals. These orders established the first Bering Sea Patrol, which has evolved into the present-day Alaska Patrol.

The Wayanda was destined to set a precedent which made the cutters the symbol of law

enforcement, medical aid, mail delivery, and assistance to those in distress.

Suffering the same growing pains as Alaska itself, the patrol now has a job description that was not in the wildest dreams of the early-day crewmembers.

The modern patrol is engaged in a vitally important struggle to protect the living resources of the sea in one of the most productive fisheries remaining in the world today.

The fisheries, and their products, for many years were the leading Alaskan resource; only in the last few years have they slipped into second place with the discovery of oil on Alaska's North Slope.

However, the fisheries are a renewable resource and with wise management should still

be there long after the oil is gone.

In 1971, the latest figures available, the Alaska fishing industry, whose boats range in size from 20-170 feet, caught approximately 470 million pounds of fish.

In the same year, from the same waters, Japanese, Soviet, South Korean, and Canadian high seas fishing fleets took about 4.7 billion pounds of fish, 10 times the U.S. catch.

The imbalance would have been greater had it not been for the efforts of the Alaska Patrol.

At present, 25 Coast Guard units are involved in the patrol. This includes three fixed-wing aircraft, six long-range helicopters, and 16 cutters. Of the 16 cutters, seven travel to Alaska from the West Coast and Hawaii

on a rotating basis.

With this staff of watchdogs, a year-round vigil is kept on the state's fishing grounds.

As part of a combined effort, a National Marine Fisheries Service Protection Officer is on board most of the cutters and aircraft engaged in patrolling the fisheries.

As a fisheries law enforcement officer, he provides the Coast Guard with expertise concerning the agreements with foreign countries whose nationals fish near Alaska.

He also helps identify foreign vessels and their fishing gear; estimates the size of their catch; and, identifies fish species.

Last year, 535 patrol days were tallied by all units involved. Area covered was about nine million square miles during which time foreign vessel sightings ranged from a high of 600 in July to a low of 75 in November.

In spite of the much talked about fuel shortage, 1974 operation plans call for no slacking of patrol efforts. Ships and aircraft, however, will be operated at their most economical speeds unless law enforcement action or search and rescue work requires greater speeds.

The Munro, under the command of Capt. Howard H. Istock, is one of the biggest and most recent additions to the Coast Guard fleet.

The cutter will carry a helicopter and small aviation detail in addition to her 155-man crew. She is due to return to Seattle in early March.

Welfare Sys.

In an effort to reduce client and agency error in the state's welfare system, persons now applying for Aid to Families with Dependent Children must provide verification or documentary proof of vital information on their application before eligibility can be determined.

In announcing this change from what was basically an "honor" system to a verification system, Commissioner Frederick McGinnis of Health and Social Services said applicants must verify all income and resources information, family relationships, children's ages, addresses, divorces, deaths or disabilities, and other factors concerning eligibility.

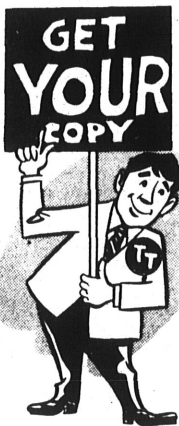
"Documents of proof include birth records, medical reports, employment check stubs, school records, rent receipts, adoption papers, and last year's income tax statement. These are now being required of every applicant," McGinnis said.

A similar approach has been an on-going practice in the Food Stamp Program.

"We are alerting all related agencies of this change and our district offices of Family and Children Services are providing detailed information upon request," McGinnis added.

The commissioner said that "while the initial application process is time consuming, it serves to reduce Alaska's error rate on both the part of the applicant and the eligibility worker and thus in the long run is most beneficial."

He emphasized that "decreasing our error rate is one of our priority goals in 1974."



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Your Horoscope

By JEANE DIXON
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WEDNESDAY, JAN. 23

Your birthday today: Coincides with a new moon, or conjunction with the Sun exact at 6:02 a.m. EST. Your coming year has a curious blend of finality. Many things are done for the last time ever. Oncoming enterprises are not yet fully developed. Relationships, both long-established and new, must all begin afresh. Today's natives are fond of moving from place to place, generally sociable while preserving definite individuality.

ARIES (March 21 — April 19): Your tact with unwelcome contacts must not interfere with your termination of them. Evening hours should be used for a break from regular routines.

TAURUS (April 20 — May 20): Rounds and rounds of conversation solve no problems. Sensible, diligent work will. Bring home some surprise token of your affections.

GEMINI (May 21 — June 20): First the rescue of what was tried yesterday, next to get ready for tomorrow. Be willing to try unfamiliar methods, new tools. Avoid fatigue.

CANCER (June 21 — July 22): Review yesterday's record; line up a day of corrective action. Serious planning shouldn't exclude some lively home life.

LEO (July 23 — Aug. 22): This is a low point in a monthly cycle, with easier going expected shortly. The simple approach is the soft sell. Avoid any overindulgence in your own pursuit of pleasures.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 — Sept. 22): Any change now implies broader changes later. Survey your household and belongings. Give special attention to your wardrobe with an eye out for a few well-selected replacements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 — Oct. 22): It may not be your turn to carry the main burden. Let somebody else do it and take the consequences. Gather good friends for an amusing round of talk.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 — Nov. 21): Distant news tends to unsettle your long-range plans. For some schemes it may be too late. Concentrate on the near at hand. Romance is promised for later.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 — Dec. 21): Be quick to set matters right in your day-to-day living. Technical advice should be sought only from those who qualify. Medical check-ups are favored now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 — Jan. 19): Those who disagree or follow some other methods are not necessarily malicious. You can learn much by making comparisons. It's a long day for careful planning.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 — Feb. 18): Return to traditional ideas and means is the most likely phenomenon today. In balance and context, the experiment is a healthy one which may last.

PISCES (Feb. 19 — March 20): Turn yourself out well, neatly, and early. Your range of choice in selecting items you want expands. Watch your budget. Romance disappoints you, but there will be another time.