

Showing off the ship

Ensign Jamie Gordon — a crewman aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration charting vessel "Rainier" — displays a horizontal control disk used in

charting ocean waters. The Rainier tied up alongside the Navy destroyer USS McKean for weekend public tours.

Anchorage Daily News/Jim Lavrakas

Sea-Land pact expires; Teamsters plan to work

By BOB SHALLIT
Daily News reporter

Sea-Land Service Co. employees plan to report to work as usual today despite reports that a showdown is looming between the giant freight hauling firm and Teamsters Local 959.

The three-year contract between Sea-Land and the union expired at midnight Monday and both sides have been vigorously — but very quietly — preparing for a confrontation.

Sea-Land, faced with rising labor costs, has indicated it plans to eliminate its Teamster-operated trucking services and replace

them with a combination of rail and contract hauling operations.

The Teamsters, meanwhile, have been debating what retaliatory steps to take if Sea-Land announces a switch in its operations.

"Both sides are conclaveing and planning strategy," one insider said.

About 220 Sea-Land employees in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Kenai would be affected by the switch.

Both sides have steadfastly refused to comment on the developing confrontation since Sea-Land's plans were disclosed last week.

James Davis, a Sea-Land representative in Anchorage, said Monday the firm will issue a press release on its plans this afternoon.

Teamster spokesmen were not available for comment Monday evening.

Chris Gates, marketing director at the Port of Anchorage, said Monday that he too has been unable to obtain any details from Sea-Land.

"We've been trying to find out since we're certainly going to be affected," he said.

Gates said contingency plans have been established to deal with a truckers' strike, if it should occur. He added that a strike this week, when a number of ships are due in, would be particularly inopportune.

"Our hope is absolutely that there's no strike," he said. "This would be one of the worst weeks of the year for a strike to happen."

Sea-Land employees in Fairbanks and Anchorage said they also have been kept in the dark by the company and the union. The workers, who asked that their names not be used, said they plan to show up for work until they are told otherwise.

Sea-Land, meanwhile, has continued to meet this week with local trucking firms and with the Alaska Railroad in an effort to hammer out new freight hauling arrangements.

Sea-Land's planned switch in operations, industry sources say, has been prompted by mounting labor costs and increasing competition from the firm's main competitor, Totem Ocean Trailers Express.

Sea-Land lost \$5 million last year, according to Fred Tolan, a Seattle-based shipping consultant.



U.S.S. McKean to visit Anchorage for Fourth of July

Navy vessel schedules July 4 visit

A Navy destroyer will be docked at the Port of Anchorage over the Fourth of July weekend and will be open for viewing by the public.

The U.S.S. McKean is the first Navy ship to visit Anchorage in two years. In addition to carrying out all missions required of a modern destroyer, she serves as a sea-going classroom for five officers and 112 enlisted men in the Naval Reserve, who are shipmates of the active crew of 13 officers and 176 enlisted men.

The public is invited to a traditional dockside ceremony when she arrives at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 3. Miss Alaska, Sandra Lashbrook, will be part of the official Anchorage greeting team.

Special parking areas at the port will be marked off for weekend visitors.

A 40-man marching unit and color guard from the U.S.S. McKean will represent the Navy in the July Fourth parade, which begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Sears Mall

on Northern Lights Boulevard.

Immediately after the parade, the Jack Henry Post No. 1 of the American Legion, sponsors of the parade, will host the crew at an open house at their Fireweed Lane facility. The public is also invited.

Visiting hours on the U.S.S. McKean start officially on July Fourth with a 21-gun salute at noon. The open house continues on July 5 and 6, beginning at noon each day and closing in the evening. Volunteer tour guides will be members of the

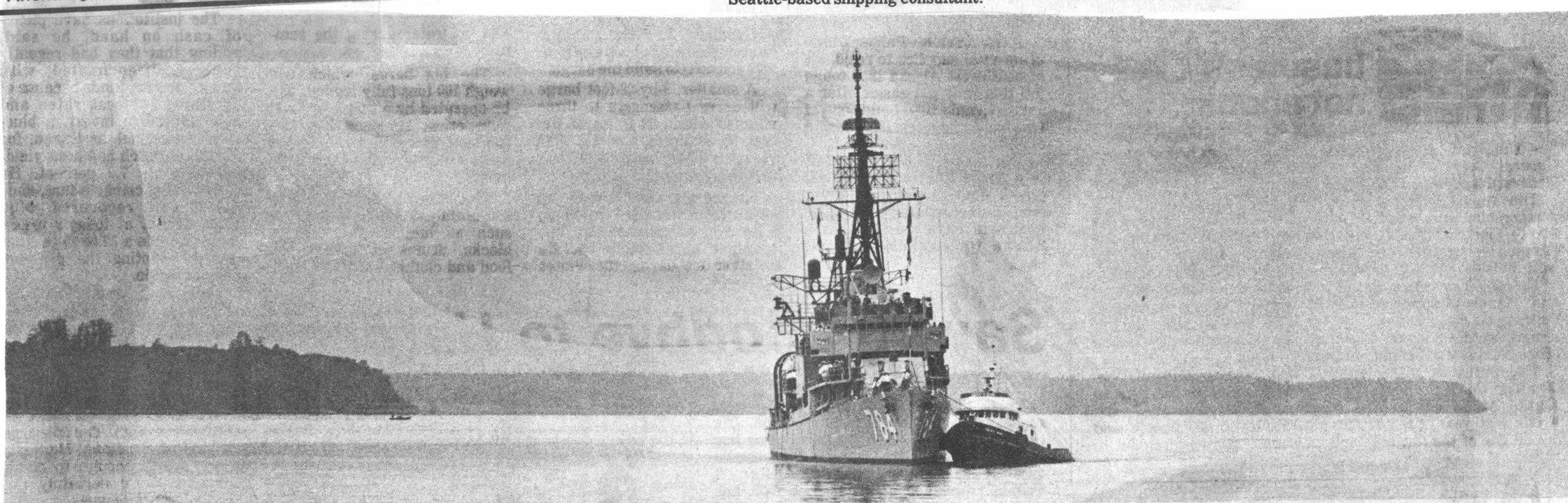
Anchorage Council of Senior Citizens.

A slow-pitch softball game between crew members and the Naval Security Group Activity, a 60-member unit based in Anchorage, will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, July 5, on the park strip at 9th Avenue and G Street.

The U.S.S. McKean is the second ship to bear the name of Commodore William Wister McKean. Today's McKean was built in Seattle at the Todd Shipyard and commissioned in 1945. She participated in the occupation of Japan, and saw action in Korea. During the Vietnam conflict she distinguished herself for accurate and effective delivery of naval gunfire and the rescue of downed pilots. Since August 1972 she has had the added mission of training Naval Reservists.

The McKean is equipped with four 5-inch .38-cal. guns capable of firing a projectile over nine miles. She has an anti-submarine rocket launcher, can refuel helicopters in flight, and her radar can detect aircraft 200 miles away.

For more information about the McKean's visit, call the Armed Services YMCA at 277-8522 or the Navy recruiting office at 272-9133.



Anchorage Daily News/Fran Durner

Navy destroyer makes friendly Anchorage visit

The U.S.S. McKean cruised into Anchorage with tug support Thursday to help the city celebrate Independence

Day. The destroyer, a sea-going classroom for members of the Naval Reserve, is open for tours today, Saturday and

Sunday beginning each day at noon. The ship will be docked at the Port of Anchorage.