A guide to the Harold Huycke motion picture film of C.A. Thayer (built 1895; schooner, 3m) restoration and voyage, 1955-1957

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A Guide to the Harold Huycke motion picture film of C.A. Thayer (built 1895; schooner, 3m) restoration and voyage

P79-235

San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, National Park Service

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Title: Harold Huycke motion picture film of C.A. Thayer (built 1895; schooner, 3m) restoration and voyage
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Access
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Acquisition Information
SAFR-02395
The motion picture film was originally placed on loan with Golden Gate National Recreation Area's National Maritime Museum at San Francisco by Harold Huycke were it was duplicated. The film was donated by the family in 2015.

Historical or Biographical Note
Captain Harold D. Huycke, Jr. was a maritime historian of the Pacific Coast. He was the author of many articles and the book, "To Santa Rosalia: Further and Back" (1970), a detailed history of a dozen German sailing ships detained in Mexico during the First World War. In 1957, he was employed by the state of California to prepare, man and deliver the C.A. THAYER from Puget Sound to San Francisco, and she is now one of the San Francisco Maritime National Park's historic vessels moored at Hyde Street Pier. Huycke was a research associate of the San Francisco Maritime Museum for 57 years and conducted hundreds of oral histories with seafaring men and some of their relatives to help document West Coast maritime history.
Captain Huycke was born in 1922 in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, and moved to the Los Angeles area in 1930 where he graduated from University High School. He became acquainted with West Coast shipping history while fishing and working around the Santa Monica Pier and Santa Monica Bay fishing barges. He attended Occidental College, graduated from the California Maritime Academy in 1944, and the University of Southern California in 1947. He went to sea on Liberty and Victory ships as a merchant seaman in the Pacific during and following World War II. After the war he continued to go to sea, rising in
Captain Huycke spent about 45 years in the shipping industry, at sea as mate and master and ashore as a cargo supervisor and later marine surveyor. His duties found him in San Francisco, the Pacific Northwest, Central America, British Columbia, and Hawaii working for various shipping companies including Weyerhaeuser Steamship Company, States Marine Lines, States Marine-Isthmian Agency, Puget Sound Tug and Barge Company and Foss Launch and Tug Company. Between assignments at sea and ashore, Huycke was tapped by the State of California to purchase, refit and deliver the lumber schooner C.A. THAYER. This year long project culminated in a coastwise sailing voyage from the Puget Sound to San Francisco for which Huycke acted as bosun. Crew members included Karl Kortum. Around this time Huycke also surveyed the steam schooner TONGASS, ex. WAPAMA for the State of California. Beginning in 1973, he became an independent marine surveyor with a specialty in wooden vessels including wooden hulled U.S. Navy minesweepers. He retired from his surveying practice in 1991.

(From David Hull's article listed below): For 60 years, Huycke's avocation was maritime history. With John Lyman, Karl Kortum, and John Kemble he was part of the first generation of maritime historians on the West Coast. Huycke has written and contributed to several books on maritime history. His largest published project was the book, TO SANTA ROSALIA, FURTHER AND BACK, a detailed history of a dozen German sailing vessels detained in a remote port in Mexico during World War I. He researched and wrote extensively on commercial sailing vessels including the Star Fleet of the Alaska Packers Association, steam schooners, Liberty and Victory ships, fishing barges and maritime businesses. Huycke located and collected primary source material and corresponded with hundreds of sailors, captains, collectors, and historians. He served as mentor and editor to many individuals, helping them to write and publish stories that would otherwise would not have been told. He conducted oral histories to preserve the stories of seafaring men and the vessels that they sailed on.

His interest in preserving maritime history led him to become active in historical organizations and maritime museums in North American and throughout the world. Harold founded the North American section of the International Society of Cape Horners, an organization whose members have all sailed around Cape Horn in a commercial sailing vessel. Huycke served on the editorial board of the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society's periodical, Sea Chest. He directed many donations to the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park over the years and some very important archival collections were acquired because of Huycke.


Sources:

- Huycke, Harold D. To Santa Rosalia Further and Back. Biography on inside cover jacket.

Collection Scope and Content

Harold Huycke motion picture film collection of C.A. Thayer (built 1895; schooner, 3m) restoration and voyage, 1957 (P79-235, SAFR 15044) consists of approximately 6,000 feet on six reels of 16mm silent, color film concerning the restoration of C.A. THAYER in 1957.

The collection's total run time is 03:23:04.


Collection Arrangement

Six reels of film arranged generally in chronological order or as received.