

The Churchill is one of two sailing schooners operated by the Sail Training Association and this is the first time that she has used Grimsby as a terminal port although some five years ago she put in for one night only. But the present visit to Grimsby is a special one because it marks the end of the Sir Winston Churchill's one hundredth cruise. As she leaves some one thousand miles, most of it under sail, on each voyage, her docking at Grimsby sees the end of about 100,000 miles of sailing.

In covering this distance the ship has carried crews of young trainees as far north as Norway and as far south as the Canary Islands. She has visited almost every port on either side of the Channel and

North Sea possible for a ship of her size to enter.

The centenary cruise is not the first time the ship has been crewed by girls alone. Aged between sixteen and twenty, these young ladies have taken their turn at all the tasks involved in the sailing of the schooner. They have undertaken some most arduous work and, in some cases, some distinctly unpleasant work.

They have all taken their turn at tasks such as scrubbing decks, going aloft to attend to sails and rigging, doing their trick at the ship's wheel, working in the depths of the engine room or even cleaning blocked toilets - something which happens even in the best of ships!

The girls have been supervised

in their sailing by the permanent crew of the ship consisting of Captain, Chief Officer, Bosun, Engineer and Cook and the volunteer afterguard of three yachtsmen as watch officers and a navigator together with a trained nurse and a woman purser.

Amongst the afterguard on this trip was Mr Geoff Peers, the Rear Commodore of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Yacht Club.

The girls came from all over the country, one or two of them from Lincolnshire including Denise Keogh who lives in New Waltham and was sponsored on the voyage by Ross Foods Ltd. Another girl from Burgh le Marsh, near Skegness, was sponsored by the Lincolnshire Constabulary.

But the "sailor" farthest from her home town was

Helen Page who comes from Lathrup Village, Michigan, USA.

Several local youngsters, boys and girls, have sailed on the Sir Winston Churchill, or her sister ship the Malcolm Miller in the past. Many of them were sponsored by the North Lincolnshire Committee of the Sail Training Association which exists to raise funds to enable more young people to take advantage of the experiences to be shared afloat.

The cruises are not cheap. The current cost is £77.00 per trainee. But the schooners themselves are far from cheap to operate as each winter they go into dock for a thorough overhaul to ensure that a high safety factor is always maintained. Apart from the refits, running repairs are needed during the cruising season and in addition to these expenses the permanent crews have to be paid at realistic rates.

Many of the trainees are sponsored by their employers or education authorities. When the ship leaves on Monday with a new crew of boy trainees three of them will be sponsored by Ross Foods Ltd. and another two by the North Lincs. Branch of the Association.

The North Lincs. Branch under the Chairmanship of Mr A. H. Wilkinson of Keelby, sponsored six places for 1971 and seven for 1972 and hopes to raise sufficient funds to send still more trainees from this area in 1973. The trainees selected for the voyages by the sponsors are recommended by youth clubs and similar organisations.

The work of the local branch of the Association was seen at first hand by representatives of various

local industries at a reception held at the headquarters of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Yacht Club at Alexandra Dock on Friday evening. The Mayors of Grimsby and Cleethorpes, Coun. Mrs Florence Franklin and Ald. Jack Oslear attended.

An afterguard of volunteer yachtsmen assists the permanent crew of the schooner and included on this voyage Mr Geoff Peers, the Rear Commodore of the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Yacht Club.



New Waltham girl Denise Keogh had the good fortune to complete her voyage at her "home port". The crew came from all over the country and there was one trainee from Michigan USA. Denise was sponsored on the £77 voyage by Ross Foods Ltd.

MOVED HOUSE?

Can you recall the feeling of strangeness in your new surroundings? How did you discover what went on in your community, and which local businesses gave good service?

And how many other queries did you have to sort out for yourself?

Or were you visited by a Welcome Wagon Hostess with her fund of local civic information and with her basket of introductory gifts from local shops and businesses who sponsor the service?



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