



Mrs. Samantha Gardiner, of Fairfield, was the only woman aboard the California Maritime Academy training ship Golden Bear during its annual cruise. The ship with 253 men aboard returned to Vallejo yesterday.—Times-Herald Photo.

### In Memory of Samantha Gardiner:

Having met my husband Fred when his mother was already quite ill I didn't get to know her very well while she was alive. I learned more about her life beginning with the day of her funeral. I found she kept a scrapbook of the most memorable event of her life. I know it was memorable to her because I heard bits and pieces of the story from her on nearly every visit with her.

On January 14, 1973, at the age of 49, Samantha embarked on a 10 week training voyage aboard the California Maritime Academy training ship Golden Bear. She was the first female crewmember in the 43-year history of the academy. The primary purpose of her joining the cruise was to determine what difficulties women might encounter aboard such a ship. The academy became a co-educational institution in July 1972 when the State Legislature amended the school's entrance requirements by eliminating the word "male" in all references to candidates seeking admission. The academy prepares college-age students for careers in the U.S. Merchant Marine and in the maritime industry.

On land Samantha was the secretary to the Golden Bear's skipper Captain William Aguilar. She continued those duties on board as the ship's writer amongst 253 midshipmen, officers and crewmembers. The 10 week cruise aboard the 491 foot ship included stops in San Diego, Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and Hawaii and Long Beach.

Samantha loved every minute of it. Having left behind a husband and five grown children Samantha fell in love with the sea. Her husband Norrie encouraged her to go telling her "it's an experience you'll never forget". He was so right.