



(Above) A Coast Guardsman weathers the extreme cold aboard a cutter breaking ice on the Hudson River in 1994. (Opposite page) The Coast Guard flagship, *Eagle*, leads a parade of tall ships through New York Harbor during OpSail '92.

the golf course surrounding Fort Jay become popular sledding sites for the island's children. There are Scout troops, organized children's sport teams, and a Teen Club. For the working mother, there is a low-cost day care center and a pre-school. A complete gymnasium is maintained in Building 400.

There are a variety of religious activities on the island for Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish personnel at the three chapels. The ecumenical movement is very much in evidence here and the three religious communities often hold joint services.

With less than 40,000 personnel, members of the Coast Guard have always been a close-knit group. With so few people, Coast Guardsmen are always running into old friends and shipmates at new assignments. Now, with the largest single population in the Coast Guard, the spirit of the Coast Guard family was doubly reinforced at Governors Island.

Following the transfer, Building 400, or Liggett Hall, was converted to a barracks and con-

tained classrooms for most of the Training Center schools that moved to the island from Groton, Conn. in 1967. The school provided both basic and advanced training in service skills such as telephone technician, store keeping, electronics, damage control, search and rescue and aids to navigation. The Training Center and its students were fixtures on the island until its departure in 1987. Some of the schools were closed all together and the rest moved to either Petaluma, Calif. or Yorktown, Va.

Nineteen seventy-two saw the erection of a Coast Guard-designed high-rise containing 160 duplex apartments. After studying the needs of enlisted men, the architectural firm reported, "We found that Coast Guard men are unusually prolific. A three-bedroom apartment was the smallest required unit and we needed to provide four bedroom units too." This building, Building 877, was named Cunningham Apartments, in memory of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Earl Cunningham, who sacrificed his life to rescue two fishermen near Charlevoix, Mich. in 1936.

Also in 1972, a new elementary school, P.S. 26, was constructed. The school accommodated island children from kindergarten to sixth grade. The school building is maintained by the Coast Guard but the teachers, textbooks and curriculum are all provided by the New York City Board of Education. Other facilities on Governors Island unique for a Coast Guard base include the first ever hotel, the Super 8, on a Coast Guard base, and the only Burger King restaurant in the nation serving beer and pizza. In 1975 the athletic field complex was rebuilt and named in honor of Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, the only Coast Guardsman to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The streets that had borne only numbered designations on the island were named in 1977 after famous Coast Guard cutters of the past. The names Bear, Escanaba, Kimball, Yeaton, Chiconteaque, Half Moon, Icarus, Mackinac, Triton, and others took their places along with the names bestowed by the Army.

Governors Island has been responsible for many firsts in the Coast Guard, but in 1977 the cutter Gallatin homeported on the island, scored a first for the U.S. military. The high-endurance cutter became the first U.S. ship-with women permanently assigned. Twelve enlisted women and two officers reported on board in the fall, making the Coast Guard the first of the U.S. armed forces to assign women to duty on an unrestricted basis.

Governors Island quickly became the showpiece of the Coast Guard. Its secure environment and close proximity to New York, the same qualities