

Icebreaker Staten Island gets ready for the mothballs

The icebreaker Staten Island, first used by the Russians in World War II, will be decommissioned at Pier 90 in ceremonies beginning at 10 a. m. tomorrow.

The Coast Guard ship, launched in San Pedro in 1944, was presented to the Soviet Union under the Lend Lease program and deployed as the Severny Venter (Northwind) until 1951 when she was returned to the Navy at Bremerhaven, Germany.

Renamed the Staten Island, the Navy

used the ship in the Atlantic until 1955 when she was assigned to Seattle.

The Staten's decommissioning had been scheduled for next spring but was advanced six months due to budget requirements. She is to be replaced next summer by the Polar Star being completed by Lockheed of Seattle.

The Staten's first Coast Guard skipper here was Capt. Stewart Beckwith, now chief of the 13th District Marine Safety Division.