Below: ENS Jean M. Butler to ***Alert****, Right: ENS Christine J. Quedens to* ***Mellon***

First Fourteen ...

Story and Photos by Coast Guard Photo Team, Headquarters

"You have survived, you have performed, in what I'm sure has been a somewhat hostile environment."

With these words, Admiral John B. Hayes, Commandant, addressed the first group of women to graduate from one of the four United States service academies.

Fourteen women and 145 men received bachelor of science degrees and commissions as ensigns in the 104th graduation of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

The women graduated one week ahead of 55 female midshipmen at Annapolis, 62 women cadets at West Point and 98 women at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.

The Coast Guard Academy was the first service academy to admit women, doing so voluntarily before Congress mandated that women could enroll at the service academies.

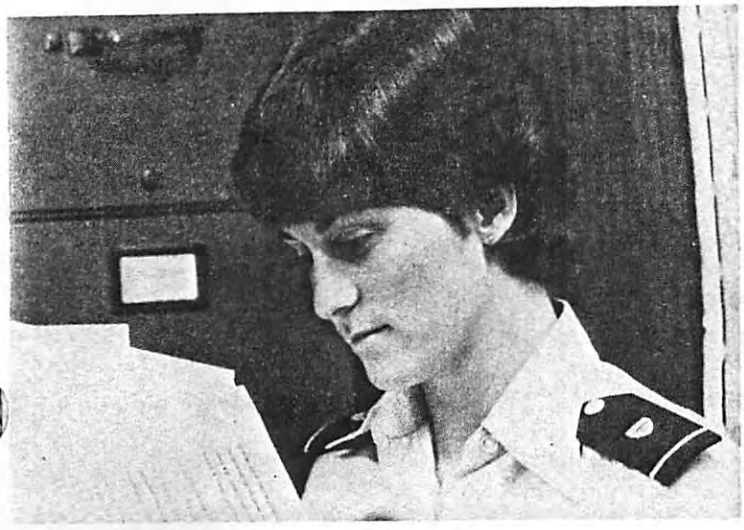
During the bicentennial summer, 38 women and 290 men were admitted as freshmen and began their Coast Guard career with swab summer. Twelve women left after the first year, and twelve more followed during the third and second class years.

Christine Quedens described her last four years, "I thought of it as an individual challenge. We all had one common quality — plenty of intestinal fortitude," she said. "Everyone had to prove they could do it. But, most importantly, they had to prove it to themselves."

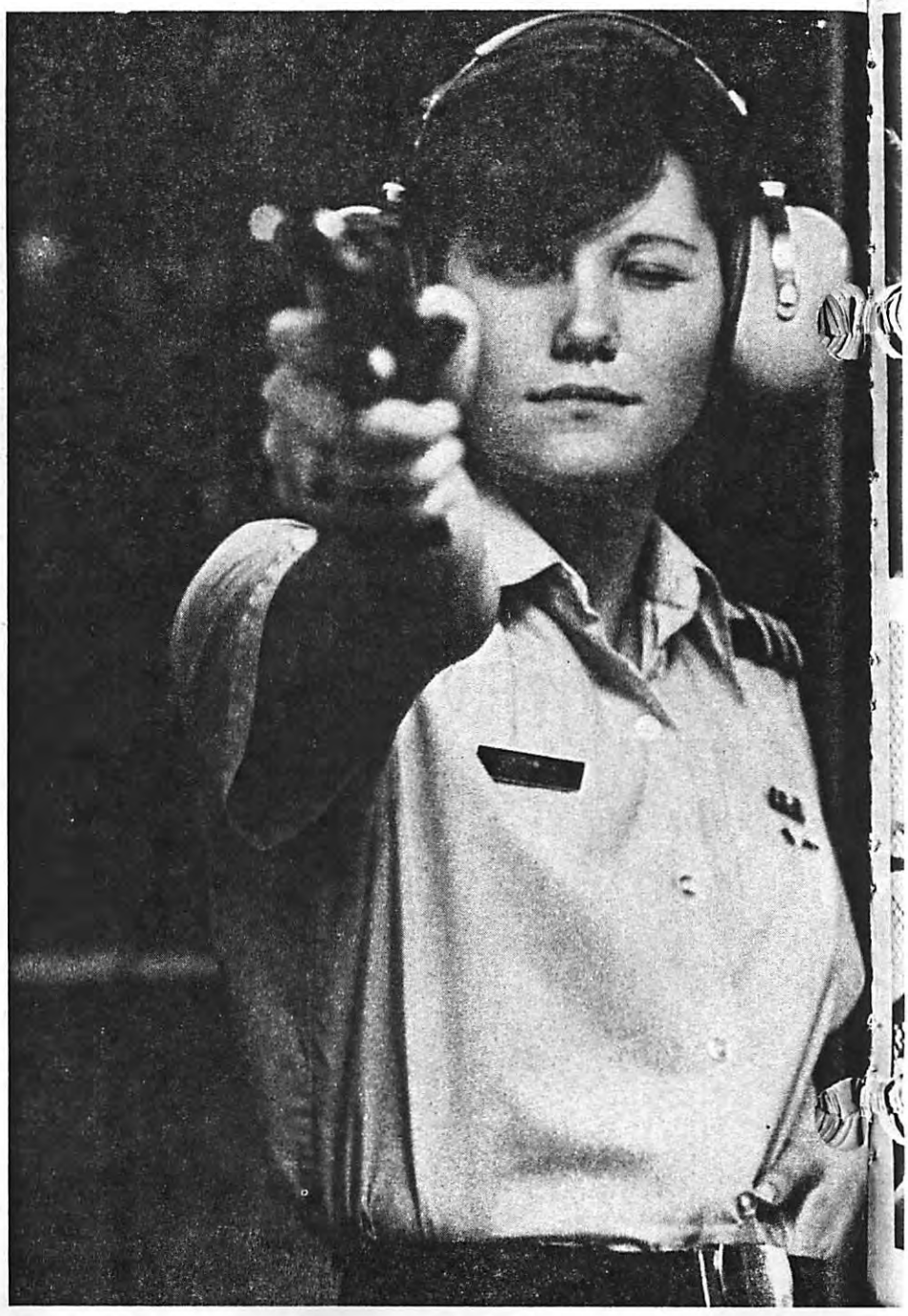
All of the women readily admitted there were problems in being first. "At the very beginning, when even our classmates, both men and women, said that we didn't belong here, there were heartaches," said Monyee Smith. "But now, it has all changed. We really feel accepted — mainly because we are now accepted as individuals."

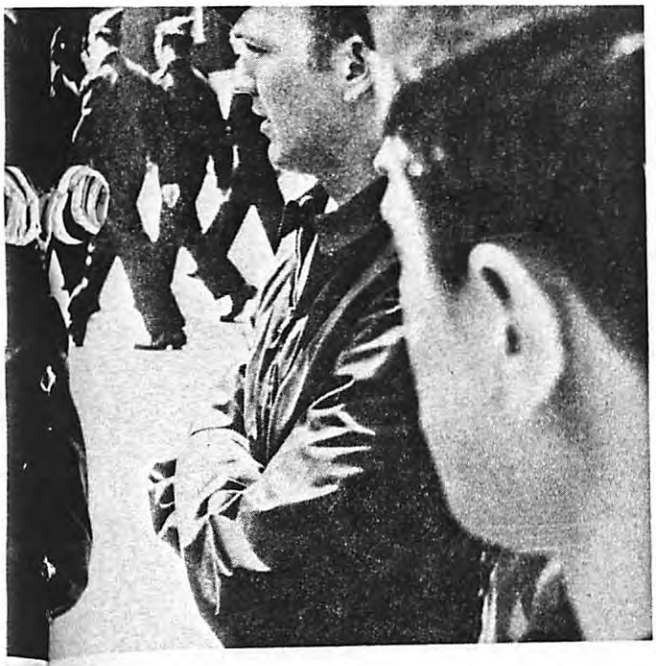
In general, the women felt they had grown as individuals and had become part of a team at the same time. In the words of Kathy Hamblett, "I feel like I have accomplished something. It's like trying to climb a mountain and finally getting there and looking down."

All 159 of the new ensigns will report to sea duty soon. Smith, for one, is anxious to become a working part of the Coast Guard family. "I couldn't imagine being in the Coast Guard and not being able to go to sea. I like the service's basic ideals and the thought of saving lives and helping the country."

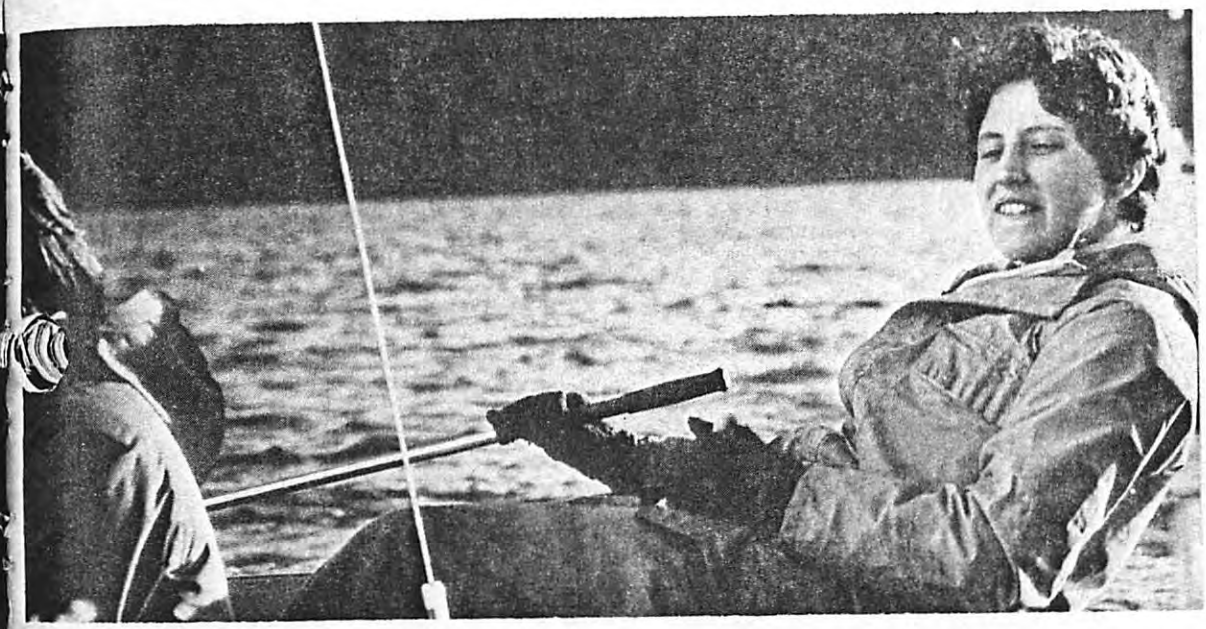


Above: ENS Linda Johansen to ***Bittersweet****, Left: ENS Kathy Hamblett to* ***Woodrush****.*





Clockwise from top: ENS Sharon M. Willis to ***Chase,*** *ENS Michele Fitzpatrick to* ***Polar Sea,*** *ENS Karen J. Tweed to* ***Decisive,*** *ENS Joanne McCaffrey to* ***Gallatin,*** *ENS Mary L. Southwood to* ***Sweetbrier.***



Below: *ENS Maryjane East to* **Durable,** *Right:* *ENS Susan K. Donner to* **Spar,** *Bottom:* *ENS Jody B. Turner to* **Rush**

Left: ENS Tamera D. Rose to ***Decisive****, Below: ENS Monyee T. Smith to* ***Boutwell.***

A Left Hand Salute? ... Most certainly not. In Bulletin 22-80, Page 10 shows RADM Thomas T. Wetmore and LTJG Timothy C. Stone saluting during ceremonies honoring those lost aboard **Cuyahoga.** They appear to be saluting with the left hand because the negative was flipped in the printing process.

On the cover ... *On a priceless sunny day in Southeast Alaska, two crewmen from* **Cape Coral**, *the 95 footer in the background, work at Wood Spit Light at the entrance to Endicott Arm. Homeported in Auke Bay,* **Cape Coral** *occasionally assists Juneau-based* **Planetree** *with maintenance of such aids in the area. Sundum Glacier can be seen on the mountain beyond. Photo by SN Tim Finley,* **Cape Coral**

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Commandant's Bulletin is a weekly authorized general interest publication produced by the Public Affairs Division for members of the U.S. Coast Guard. Editorial content is not to be considered as authority for official action nor as record material. Views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Transportation or the U.S. Coast Guard. Submissions should be addressed to: Commandant's Bulletin (G-APA-2/21), U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, D.C. 20593, Tel: (202) 426-2310. Commandant's Bulletin is offset printed by McDonald and Eudy Printers, Inc.

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