

# Fun and Education for Younger Sailors

## Hercules: A Gull's Eye View

Gertie and Mel are the two gulls who live on top of *Hercules*' pilothouse. From that perspective, they see things a little differently than other gulls, er, I mean, people. Well, at least Mel does. He really enjoys spouting off facts and figures about his favorite tug. In honor of *Hercules*' 100th birthday, he thought he'd share a few fun *Hercules* facts with you:



Gertie, or is it Mel?

☺ On her first voyage, *Hercules* towed her sister ship, *Goliah* on a 13,460 mile journey from New Jersey, where she was built, all the way to San Francisco. You try towing your sister 13,460 miles! That's like taking 1,500 ferry tours of San Francisco Bay without ever getting off.

☺ To tow her heavy loads, *Hercules* required 1,200 feet of cable. That's about as long as 1½ Transamerica buildings.

☺ A bunk on *Hercules* is the same length as a single bed but it is only about two feet wide. When you climb

into bed tonight, think about the sailors on *Hercules*. Now imagine your bed is moving up and down and back and forth in a storm at sea. How does anyone get any sleep around here??

☺ *Hercules* is 151 feet long. You could fit two of her, end to end, inside the *Eureka* ferryboat with only a little bit of overhang.

☺ The crew's fo'c's'le, or living quarters, was a space 18' by 18' in the very forward or front part of the tug. Pace that space off and then figure out where you'll put your

bunk. Then figure out where to put the bunks of the other 8 to 11 people who will be living with you.

☺ Why couldn't the sailors play cards? The captain was standing on the deck! Hey, even gulls can only take so many facts.

If you come down to the pier, be sure to look for Gertie and Mel hanging out on top of the pilot house. And wish *Hercules* a Happy Birthday too!

Photo by Dan Ng

### Find the words in the puzzle.

**Gertie**

**Hercules**

**Mel**

**Goliah**

**Sister**

**Cable**

**Bed**

**Pilothouse**

**Eureka**

H	U	S	Y	Y	V	T	E	W	U
P	I	L	O	T	H	O	U	S	E
H	D	Y	R	L	G	X	R	N	V
Y	E	D	M	E	L	C	E	Z	M
Y	E	R	R	F	T	I	K	Q	D
B	W	T	C	Z	Z	S	A	F	E
K	I	G	U	U	I	C	I	P	L
E	Q	H	A	I	L	O	G	S	B
J	P	K	O	S	Q	E	M	K	A
D	I	O	V	Z	G	W	S	X	C